

27, 19

28, 29

### Hizbollah fighters injure 2 SLA militiamen

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — Two members of the Israeli-controlled South Lebanon Army (SLA) were wounded in an attack Wednesday by the Iranian-backed Hizbollah in the Israeli-occupied zone in southern Lebanon, the SLA said. The SLA said the two militiamen were wounded in a mortar attack on their patrol near the Sujud fort on the edge of the central sector of Israel's self-declared "security zone," the SLA said. Hizbollah said in a statement that its fighters had "killed and wounded several" members of the SLA patrol on the Sujud-Rihan road. "A truck and troop transport vehicle were destroyed during the attack," it said.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية المستقلة

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Price: Jordan 200 fils

## King says those who believe in rule of people should not call for boycott

Whoever seeks to protect interests of Jordan has to contribute to its democratic process — King

AJLOUN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday urged Jordanians to go to the polls on Nov. 4 to elect their representatives in Parliament, saying whoever seeks to protect the interests of the country has to contribute to its democratic process.

Addressing a public rally during a visit to the Ajloun Governorate, King Hussein said: "Through Parliament, these representatives exercise their authority as ruler of the people. He who believes in the people's rule should not stand in the face of men and women by telling them not to take part in the democratic and construction process. Whoever is keen on protecting national interest should realise his or her duty towards the country. Each citizen must elect a representative that can shoulder the responsibility."

"We must respect each other's views, and we should work together to build our country," stressed the King, adding that "the Jordanian people will give their answer through the polls which will be held on schedule, and we expect to see only the most eligible and the best elected."

because they will be representing the interests of the nation which should acquire the utmost priority in the new legislative council," said the King.

King Hussein underlined the need for Jordanians to work for the coming generations. He said: "We have to exert our utmost efforts not only to serve our present day people but rather to secure the coming generations and we are determined to pursue efforts in strengthening our armed forces providing them with up-to-date weapons and equip our young people with knowledge to build a model state."

Referring to demands made by speakers representing the Ajloun local community, King Hussein promised that the government will study their demands which concern roads, community colleges, a sports complex and other projects. He urged the public to give more concern to planting trees and forests in the governorate of Ajloun which he said is the most attractive resort in the country.

King Hussein, who was accompanied on the visit by His Royal Highness Prince



His Majesty King Hussein talks to citizens in Ajloun Wednesday as part of his visits to the Kingdom's governorates in which he discusses with constituents their grievances and explains the Kingdom's policies. The King was received in the street upon his arrival by thousands of citizens cheering and waving at his car (Photo by Yousef 'Allan')

Hamzeh, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh and other officials, inaugurated the electronic telephone exchange which

services 14,713 telephone lines serving 47 town and villages.

Later, he inspected the new exchange and visited the governor's office for a

briefing on projects being implemented concerning roads, education, health, agriculture, water, tourism, telecommunications and social development.

## Haddadin, Sharon discuss Jordan Rift Valley projects

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin Wednesday said that a comprehensive plan to develop the Jordan Rift Valley (JRV) was presented to Israel this week.

Speaking to Israel Radio following his meeting with the Israeli minister of national infrastructure, Ariel Sharon, Dr. Haddadin said that during the meeting the two sides agreed on the mechanism of the joint committees.

The minister added that these projects "by no means

would harm the rights of any third party. I mean our Palestinian brothers."

"Last week, we have finished our studies on these projects. We have dispatched 50 copies of the study to the Israeli side and we are awaiting the study of the big project, namely linking the Red Sea with the Dead Sea," the minister said.

Dr. Haddadin emphasised the Dead sea "will be linked with the Red Sea through a canal and pipes. It is a large engineering project and as I said it has not been agreed upon so far."

"We have also discussed a

desalination project in northern Israel and the joint efforts to attract foreign financing," the minister said.

Mjalli Wahbeh, a senior Israeli official at the ministry of infrastructure who attended the Haddadin-Sharon talks, said that Mr. Sharon gives priority to the implementation of the JRV projects.

Mr. Mjalli, who visited Jordan a few days ago and met with Water and Irrigation Ministry officials in Amman, said the "atmosphere" between

(Continued on page 7)

## Jordan refutes claim of U.S. pressure to conduct dialogue

By Francesca Ciriaci  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government on Wednesday refuted a claim by an Islamist leader that it started dialogue with the Islamists only after being pressured by the Americans.

Replying to a statement by the head of the Muslim Brotherhood planning division, Imad Abu Diah, claiming that "the U.S. is pressuring the government to start a dialogue with the opposition" in order to persuade it to participate in the Nov. 4 elections, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir

Mutawi yesterday told the Jordan Times that "the government of Jordan will decide according to the country's interests."

According to Dr. Mutawi, the second round of talks with the Islamic-led opposition parties that six weeks ago announced their decision to boycott the elections "will start early next week, probably on Sunday, after Saturday's regular Cabinet meeting."

The Muslim Brotherhood, however, has cast serious doubts over the success of dialogue and the government's intention to work out a compro-

mise and meet at least some of the opposition's demands.

"We cannot talk about a second phase of the dialogue, because there has never been a first phase," Mr. Abu Diah said, describing the government-opposition recent talks as "a dialogue about the dialogue."

"We waited a long time for the government to take action, and we have not heard anything serious so far," he continued.

In early July, when it made its historic decision to boycott the autumn

(continued on page 7)

## Israel ends month-long blockade of Bethlehem

BETHLEHEM (AFP) — Israel lifted a month-old blockade of the Biblical town of Bethlehem Wednesday, defusing what had become a principal flash point for violence in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian crisis.

Taxis and buses packed with Palestinians streamed into Bethlehem from the West Bank through army checkpoints which for the past 28 days had sealed off the town, strangling its economy and important tourism industry, witnesses said.

But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu left in place the major sanctions he imposed after a double suicide bombing in Jerusalem on July 30 which left 16 dead. A ban on Palestinians entering Israel

and a freeze on the transfer of more than \$30 million owed to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Mr. Netanyahu, who was visiting South Korea, said these measures would remain as long as Palestinian President Yasser Arafat refused to take tough action against Islamists accused of anti-Israeli attacks.

Israel maintained the harshest of the travel restrictions around Bethlehem, where Mr. Netanyahu claimed Islamists who planned the Jerusalem bombing were hiding, even though the bombers themselves have not been identified.

But the blockade brought the Israeli leader increasing international criticism, clouding his economic tour in Asia this week.

The Vatican Tuesday called on Israel to lift the seal on Bethlehem, by Christian tradition the birthplace of Jesus and an important pilgrimage site.

Jordan promised to send eight tonnes of medicine Thursday to help alleviate the effects of the blockade.

Under weeks of siege, Bethlehem itself became a powder keg, with four straight days of clashes this week between stone-throwing Palestinian protesters and Israeli soldiers which threatened to deteriorate into worse violence.

Israeli newspapers published photographs of Palestinian policemen aiming their rifles at Israeli troops during

(Continued on page 7)

## Gaza refugees continue protesting U.N. cuts

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian refugees demonstrated Wednesday for a second day throughout the Gaza Strip, ignoring calls by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to halt protests against deep cutbacks in U.N. services to refugees.

Some 1,000 protesters, mostly students, protested outside schools run by U.N. Works and Relief Agency (UNRWA), the United Nations agency which helps Palestinian refugees, in Deir Al Balah refugee camp in southern Gaza, witnesses said.

Hundreds more gathered at UNRWA offices in other refugee camps in the Gaza

Strip, shouting slogans demanding that the agency reverse cutbacks in services due to a \$20 million budget deficit.

Refugee committees have called a boycott of schools run by UNRWA to protest its decision to charge nominal fees for studies for the first time, preventing the school year from starting four days ago.

Deputy Education Minister Naim Abu Humus, appearing on Palestinian television Tuesday night, called on refugee leaders to end their

(Continued on page 7)

## Israel confirms arrest of Golan Heights woman

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli authorities confirmed Wednesday that they had arrested a Druze woman from the Golan Heights on security offences, a detention which sparked violent protests on the occupied plateau.

"It is a very serious affair and is now in the hands of the courts," Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said on the radio after a visit to the occupied plateau.

Iham Abu Saleh, a student at Damascus University, was arrested several days ago as she visited her family on the Golan Heights and is being held on suspicion of "endangering state security," police officials said.

"Israeli security agents arrested Iham at the house during the night," her brother Karim said on the radio. "About 15 of them entered and searched the entire house."



Iham Abu Saleh

A magistrates court in the northern Israeli town of Akko earlier this week ordered Saleh held for an additional two weeks in preventive custody pending further investigation, they said.

The court initially ordered a ban on news reports of the arrest, but lifted the injunction Wednesday after

(Continued on page 7)

## Jordan, Israel say media's stormy reports on water dam are untrue

By Tareq Ayyoub  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian and Israeli officials Wednesday denied media reports that a joint Jordanian-Israeli dam will be constructed on a territory claimed by Syria.

Minister of Water and Irrigation Munther Haddadin, who was speaking to Israel Radio following his meeting with the Israeli minister of national infrastructure, Ariel Sharon, said the planned dam was a Jordanian project which will be constructed on Jordanian territory.

"This is a Jordanian dam. Planned, financed and built by Jordan. Israel has nothing to do with it," the minister told the radio.

The minister was responding to Israeli media claims that Jordan and

Israel have discussed building a dam on the Yarmouk River on Syrian territory occupied in 1967.

Mr. Sharon reversed a policy of late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to implement the project within the "Green Line," the pre-1967 boundaries between Israel and Jordan, the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz wrote.

Ha'aretz added that Mr. Sharon has consulted with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu before making the decision to build the dam, which will trap waters of the Yarmouk River in the former demilitarised zone of Al Himme. The Israeli announcement drew a

"During our meeting, we made jokes and laughed at these reports. The media has started an endless storm," the minister told the radio.

The minister was responding to Israeli media claims that Jordan and

(Continued on page 7)

## Iraq says UNSCOM inspection clears it on long-range missiles

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq said Wednesday that U.N. weapons inspection teams have determined that it is not hiding any prohibited long-range missiles or components, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

"The laboratory analysis carried out in the United States and France on Iraqi missile components have confirmed the Iraq's position," said INA, quoting officials close to discussions with the United Nations Special Commission for Iraqi disarmament (UNSCOM).

The Iraqi officials accused UNSCOM chief Rolf Ekeus of having "made a crisis" out of this issue, "which could have been settled at the beginning of the year," INA added.

Mr. Ekeus, a Swedish diplomat replaced in July by Australia's Richard Butler as UNSCOM chief, "acted on purpose to prolong the duration of the blockade," the sources said in reference to the U.N. embargo imposed on Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq last March sent to laboratories in France and the U.S. remains of Soviet-made Scud missiles claimed to be destroyed in 1991.

UNSCOM sought to determine if Iraq really destroyed the missiles or if it presented locally-made components as a

proof of their destruction.

The U.N. watchdog has suspected Iraq of hiding more than 16 missiles because their original Soviet-made components were lacking in the inventory presented by the Iraqi authorities.

Under the 1991 Gulf war cease-fire terms set by U.N. Security Council Resolution 687, the oil embargo would only be lifted when UNSCOM certifies that Iraq has destroyed weapons of mass destruction and the means to produce them.

The weapons include nuclear, biological and chemical, as well as missiles with a range exceeding 150 kilometres.



Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser tries, with others, to break through Israeli army lines Wednesday to hold a brief joint protest with Palestinian religious and political leaders, over the nearly month-long closure of the Biblical West Bank town (AFP photo)

## Armed group axes family of 6 to death in western Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — An armed group axed to death a family of six, burned their corpses and set fire to their house in a village in western Algeria, newspapers reported Wednesday.

In other incidents, six Islamists were killed in two separate clashes with government security forces, while a series of bombs killed one person and wounded at least 20 people.

More than 100 people have died since the weekend in massacres and bombings in one of the bloodiest weeks of the entire summer in Algeria's long-running Islamist insurgency.

The six-person family was killed early Tuesday in the village of Zehra near the town of Tlemcen on the border with Morocco about 500 kilometres east of the capital Algiers, according to the independent daily Liberte.

In other incidents, a

bomb exploded Tuesday in the centre of the Al Oumia, a town about 100 kilometres south of Algiers, wounding at least 10 people. A bomb that exploded Tuesday morning on the railway linking the town of Al Khemis with the capital killed one person and wounded 10 others, the newspaper said.

A third bomb exploded Tuesday afternoon near the gate of the Hospital Beni Messous, but there were no injuries.

Following parliamentary elections in June, the government promised to try to crackdown on Islamists who are believed to be responsible for much of the violence in Algeria.

Government security forces have had limited success in their campaign to crush Islamists.

But Tuesday, six suspected Islamist activists were killed.

Security forces killed

four Islamists in Constantine in eastern Algeria, while on Monday two others were killed on the outskirts of the same city. Liberte reported.

It often takes time for reports of violence to reach the capital Algiers, and violence earlier reported made Tuesday a particularly bloody day.

Armed attackers killed 64 villagers Tuesday, slitting the throats of most of them. In the latest massacre in the North African nation, witnesses said.

The dawn massacre took place in Beni Ali, a village in the mountains about 60 kilometres south of Algiers, according to the witnesses, who were travelling to the capital from the region and spoke on condition of anonymity, for fear of reprisals.

The recent upsurge of violence began after the June 5 parliamentary elections. More than 1,000 peo-

ple have been killed since then.

The latest massacre came as the government again declared its determination to stamp out the violence.

"I want to express the government's determination to combat this plague of terrorism," the government's spokesman, Hamraoui Habib-Chawki, told state radio Tuesday.

Many villagers are reportedly killed because the militants want to take revenge on those who have joined government-armed self-defence groups.

The June vote was the first since the army cancelled 1992 elections to block a probable victory by Islamists — a move that triggered their 5-year-old insurgency.

More than 60,000 people have died in the insurgency.



ISRAELI DRILLS: Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai jumps down from a Merkava tank after he was briefed by army officers during an Israeli army exercise on the Golan Heights Wednesday. The high land plateau that Israel occupied in 1967, is one of Israel's main army exercise areas. Syria is demanding a return of the Golan as a precondition for peace negotiations with Israel (AFP photo)

## Syrian defence minister warns Israel against surprise attack

MANAMA (AFP) — Syrian Defence Minister Mustapha Tlass warned Israel Wednesday against launching an attack on his country, saying Israel would be made to pay a high price.

"Israel would pay dearly for any stupid attack on Syria," General Tlass told the Bahraini newspaper Akhbar Al Khaleej.

"If [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu and his clique are working to create conditions of war, Syria is not afraid of war," he said.

"It is ready to defend itself and protect the inter-

ests of the country and the Arab World," he added.

Gen. Tlass accused Israel of stoking tension in the Middle East with its headline policies on the peace process and the Palestinian territories.

"Israel has slammed the door on peace in the region and opened the prospect of war," he told

the Bahraini newspaper.

"Netanyahu's government is playing with fire in its insistence on pursuing an aggressive and stupid policy."

The defence minister called on the Syrian army last week to be on extra alert for any surprise attack.

Israeli-Syrian peace

talks broke off in February 1996 and relations between the two neighbours soured after Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing government took power several months later.

Mr. Netanyahu has rejected Syria's demand that the talks resume on the basis of exchanging occupied land for peace

— namely the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in 1967.

Gen. Tlass criticised the U.S., the main sponsor of the Arab-Israeli peace process, for failing to rein in Mr. Netanyahu.

"We are not the only ones to wonder about the silence and complacency of the United States ... which is allowing Israel to destroy the peace process," the general said. But he added that Syria still believes the U.S. has a useful role to play in salvaging the peace process.

## Iran newspaper says ball in Germany's court to end row

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian newspaper said Wednesday it was up to Germany to work towards ending a row with Tehran over a German court ruling that top Iranian leaders ordered political killings in Berlin.

There has been no official reaction from Tehran yet on comments on Tuesday by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel that Bonn wanted to patch up its troubled relations with Iran.

"Given Kinkel's latest statement, we are interested in knowing what actions Germany has used in sending the ball to our court... We ... believe that the ball is in Germany's court. Bonn initiated the row. Bonn must

remove it," the Tehran Times said.

The paper said the court ruling in April "dealt a severe blow to bilateral relations" between Iran and Germany. "Therefore the Iranian nation naturally expects Germany to make up for past mistakes."

Iran's new Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi was quoted Tuesday as saying he was ready to meet European counterparts to discuss their strained relations, if that was the wish of the European Union (EU) states.

Iran's new president, 54-year-old moderate cleric Mohammad Khatami who was sworn into office on

Aug. 4 after a landslide poll victory, has signalled a new era in Tehran's attitude to foreign relations, calling for an "active and fresh presence."

All EU countries except Greece withdrew their ambassadors from Tehran in the wake of the ruling by a Berlin court that Iran's top leaders had ordered the 1992 assassination of four Kurdish dissidents in a restaurant in Germany.

The EU also suspended its "critical dialogue" policy with Tehran, a strategy championed by Bonn involving keeping trade and political ties while also discussing human rights issues.

## Egyptian military court adjourns trial of 97 Islamists

CAIRO (AP) — A military court hearing the trial of 97 suspected Islamist militants accused of waging war against the secular government said Tuesday it will announce its verdict next month.

Prior to adjourning, the military court in Haekstep, north of Cairo, said it would issue its verdict on Sept. 15.

All of the suspects — 92 men and five women — are charged with attempting to topple the regime of President Hosni Mubarak.

Many defendants also face additional charges including participating in nine bombing attacks against banks and commercial centres in Cairo, attacking police guards in

a prison, and participating in the 1994 assassination of Raouf Kheiret, head of the state security department responsible for combating the Islamists.

Last Sunday, one of the accused renewed a call to end the violence.

Mohammad Abdul Alim, a leader of the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, or the Islamic group, said his group maintains its July 5 call for a ceasefire with the government.

The government has rejected the ceasefire call, saying it will not negotiate with terrorists.

Last Tuesday, suspected militants killed five policemen and a passerby in the attack in the southern Egyptian city of Manfalut.

A letter left behind in a stolen vehicle following the ambush claimed responsibility in the name of the Gamaa, reflecting a widening rift within the group as to whether it should continue its violent campaign against the government.

The Gamaa is Egypt's most active militant group and is blamed for most of the attacks that have taken place since Islamists began a campaign of violence in 1992, seeking to replace the secular government with an Islamist one.

The violence has left more than 1,100 people dead.

## Iraq installing elevator in stadium for Uday

CAIRO (AP) — Iraq is installing an elevator at a sports stadium for Uday Hussein, an Iraqi opposition group said Tuesday, apparent evidence that President Saddam Hussein's son has not fully recovered the use of his legs following an assassination attempt.

Uday was hospitalised for six months after unknown assailants shot him some 10 times in December. Iraqi television earlier this month broadcast footage of Uday walking a few steps unsupported and limping on his left side.

The London-based Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation said workers were installing an elevator to the top floor of Al Shaab International Stadium for Uday.

Uday, who heads the Iraqi

Olympic Committee, has invited Argentinean soccer star Diego Maradona to Iraq in early September to play alongside the Iraqi team against Poland's national team.

There was no immediate word from soccer officials in Argentina as to whether Maradona has accepted the invitation.

Uday apparently plans to attend the match.

While Uday is touting the elevator as a gift for Iraq's children, "the real reason is so that he can appear before the world during the match to prove that he is healthy," the opposition group said in a statement faxed to the Associated Press.

Before the attack, Uday was seen as President Hussein's heir apparent.

## Turkish minister to visit France

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem will make a two-day visit to France next week at the invitation of his French counterpart Hubert Vedrine.

Mr. Cem's ministry said Wednesday. Mr. Cem's visit Monday and Tuesday is aimed at discussing bilateral ties and European Union (EU) developments with the French foreign minister, Turkish spokesman Omer Akbel said.

Diplomatic sources said the Turkish minister will meet Tuesday with Mr. Vedrine and with junior minister for European

affairs Pierre Moscovici.

It will be Mr. Cem's first visit to France since a secular government led by conservative Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz came to power following the resignation of a one-year-old Islamist-led government on June 18.

The EU recently designated those EU applicants most likely to enter membership negotiations next year — the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary as well as Estonia, Slovenia and Cyprus — but left out Turkey, which had also applied.

The move angered

Ankara which said last month it planned to revise a January 1996 customs union with the EU in which both sides agreed to lift trade barriers in almost all trade fields, excluding agricultural products.

Mr. Cem recently reported that Turkey's trade deficit with the EU was \$5 billion in 1995 but that after the customs union accord took effect, it rose to \$11 billion in 1996.

There are, however, no particular bilateral problems between France and Turkey, both sides having referred to their relations as "excellent."

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 .....Cartoons

15:00 America's Funniest People

15:30 .....He Shoots He Scores

16:00 .....French Programmes

19:00 .....News in French

19:30 .....News Headlines

19:35 .....Trivial Pursuit

20:00 .....Parenthood

20:30 Lois and Clark — Superman

21:10 .....Kung Fu

22:00 .....News in English

22:30 .....Feature Film

23:59 .....Step By Step

### PRAYER TIMES

04:42 .....Fajr

06:03 .....(Sunrise) Duha

12:37 .....Dhuhr

16:16 .....Asr

19:11 .....Maghreb

20:32 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweith, Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church Tel.  
622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826

Armenian Catholic Church

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Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
771751

Armenian International Church  
Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 324328

German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 688404

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932

Church of Nazareth Tel.  
675691

The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department  
of Meteorology

Normal summer weather conditions  
will prevail with temperatures  
expected to rise slightly becoming  
average and winds northwesterly  
moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds  
will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman .....17/31

Aqaba .....24/37

Deserts .....15/33

Jordan Valley .....23/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 27, Aqaba 35 Humidity  
readings: Amman 30 per cent,  
Aqaba 35 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Bassam Karadshah .....759200

Dr. Ramzi Mazzawi .....894788

Dr. Salim Daboubi .....776751

Dr. Khalid M'addi .....661144

Firas pharmacy .....661912

Ferdows pharmacy .....778336

Al Asema pharmacy .....637055

Natroukh pharmacy .....623672

Al Salam pharmacy .....649495

Yacoub pharmacy .....637660

Shmeisani pharmacy .....847632

Najib pharmacy .....774111

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'ameh .....750080

Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Samir Al Lawzi .....989601

Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111

Civil Defence Department .....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue .....630341

Civil Defence Emergency .....199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade .....617101

Blood Bank .....775121

Highway Police .....843402

Traffic Police .....896390

Public Security Department .....630321

Hotel Complaints .....605800

Price Complaints .....661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints .....897467

Amman Municipality Complaints .....787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) .....121

Overseas Calls .....010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs .....623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs .....661101

Jordan Television .....773111

Radio Jordan .....774111

Water Authority .....680100

Jordan Electricity Authority .....815615

Electric Power Company .....636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Ind. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre .....813813/52

Khalidi Maternity .....644281/6

Akileh Maternity .....642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity .....642362

Mahas, J. Amman .....636140

Falestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital .....669131

University Hospital .....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital .....66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen .....777101/3

Al-Bashir .....775111/26

Army, Marka .....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital .....602340/50

Amal Hospital .....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital .....09/983323

Zarqa National Hospital .....09/900560

Ibn Sina Hospital 09/986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital .....09/990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital .....02/275555

Greek Catholic Hospital .....02/272775

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital .....02/247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital .....03/314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

09:00 .....Jeddah (add) (RJ)

09:30 .....Sanaa (RJ)

09:45 .....New Delhi (RJ)

10:05 .....Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)

10:05 .....Bombay (RJ)

10:20 .....Bahrain (RJ)

10:25 .....Beirut (RJ)

10:40 .....Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

11:00 .....Colombo (RJ)

13:10 .....Kuwait (RJ)

15:55 .....New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:30 .....London (RJ)

18:55 .....Doha (RJ)

19:10 .....Athens (RJ)

19:45 .....Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)

19:45 .....Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)

19:50 .....Moscow (RJ)

20:25 .....Kuwait (add) (RJ)

23:15 .....Dhahran (add) (RJ)

### Other Flights

09:25 .....Kiev (add) (RJ)

11:00 .....Al 'Arish (add) (PF)

13:00 .....Riyadh (SV)

13:55 .....Doha (GF)

14:30 .....Al 'Arish (add) (PF)

14:40 .....Sharjah (AH)

16:00 .....Rome (AZ)

19:50 .....Tel Aviv (LY)

21:00 .....Cairo (MS)

21:10 .....Beirut (ME)

01:20 .....Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)

05:40 .....London (BA)

09:00 .....Dubai (EK)

### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(For Thursday and Friday)

06:45 .....Aqaba (RW)

10:05 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)

10:50 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

18:20 .....Tel Aviv (RW)

19:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)

22:20 .....Aqaba (RW)

23:50 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

Royal Wings (RW)

06:45 .....Beirut (RJ)

07:45 .....Kuwait (RJ)

10:15 .....Moscow (RJ)

11:35 .....Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)

12:10 .....Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

12:20 .....Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

12:45 .....Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

13:00 .....Doha (RJ)

13:00 .....Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)

13:10 .....Paris (RJ)

13:20 .....Athens (RJ)

13:25 .....London (RJ)

15:00 .....Kuwait (RJ)

18:15 .....Dhahran (RJ)

21:00 .....Madrid (RJ)

21:10 .....Cairo (RJ)

21:20 .....Lamaca (RJ)

21:25 .....Jeddah (RJ)

22:00 .....Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

22:25 .....Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

01:00 .....Dubai (RJ)

01:30 .....Abu Dhabi (RJ)

### Other Flights

04:00 .....Athens (OA)

06:15 .....Istanbul (TK)

08:45 .....Beirut (ME)

08:50 .....Amsterdam (GA)

09:10 .....London (BA)

10:25 .....Kiev (add) (GF)

13:00 .....Al 'Arish (add) (PF)

14:30 .....Riyadh (SV)

14:45 .....Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (GF)

15:30 .....Amman (Algeria) (AH)

15:30 .....Al 'Arish (add) (PF)

17:00 .....Rome (AZ)

21:10 .....Tel Aviv (LY)

22:00 .....Cairo (MS)

02:30 .....Amsterdam (KL)

08:45 .....Beirut (ME)

10:00 .....Dubai (EK)

10:25 .....London (BA)

### Royal Wings

(For Thursday and Friday)

07:45 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

09:15 .....Aqaba (RW)

10:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)

17:45 .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

18:55 .....Tel Aviv (RW)

21:30 .....Amman (QAIA) (RW)

22:50 .....Aqaba (RW)

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Council, Jabal Amman.





VISIT TO VTC: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday visits the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) where he is briefed on the organisation's future plans and its role in solving poverty and unemployment among citizens. Dr. Majali called for preparing studies on the needs of the Jordanian labour market (Petra photo)

## Opposition groups demand retraction of official's statements

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's 11 opposition groups Wednesday attacked statements made recently by Minister of Interior Nuthir Rashid that they claim were aimed at distorting their image, and demanded the government denounce these statements and prevent similar harmful behaviour in the future.

"The Minister of Interior has repeatedly slandered the opposition parties...the last instance was during a Jordan Television interview last week in which the minister tarnished these parties in inappropriate terms which can by no means be condoned," declared a letter sent to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, signed on behalf of the opposition groups by Mohammad Zu'bi, head of a coordination committee of the opposition parties in Jordan.

The letter stated the following:

1. The unjust campaign spearheaded by the Minister of Interior against the

opposition parties contravenes the Constitution and the National Charter.

2. The timing of this campaign clearly defines the position of the government and refutes the government's claim that it adopts a neutral position.

3. The terms used by the Minister of Interior against the opposition parties harm the image of the government more than offending the political parties, and

4. It seems that the minister, while attacking the opposition parties, is unable to adapt to the new democratic climate in Jordan.

In the face of such behaviour, the opposition parties can resort only to legal and democratic means to counter the minister's attacks, continued the letter.

The statement also accused the minister of exploiting the official media to distort the parties' image and turn the public against them.

## 3 suspects arrested in medical association fraud

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Basem Dajani Wednesday thanked the Anti-Corruption Department for arresting three suspects allegedly involved in the embezzlement of a total of JD 724,000 from the association's pension fund.

"In January 1996 the sum was discovered missing from the association, prompting the JMA board to report the matter to the police, who immediately started investigations," Dr. Dajani commented.

He told the Jordan Times

that the theft of the funds was accomplished through manipulation of receipts.

The suspects issued two types of receipts, one to JMA members and the other to the JMA board, each denoting different figures, he elaborated.

The Attorney General was informed upon discovery of the illicit operation and immediately opened an investigation into the matter to determine the persons responsible, he continued.

Subsequent investigations resulted in the arrest of three employees working as accountants and treasurers

at the JMA office. Dr. Dajani said.

The three were later released on bail, but after the public prosecutor realised the enormity of the embezzlement, he ordered the apprehension of the suspects. One was arrested immediately, while the other two remained at large until two weeks ago, he added.

According to Dr. Dajani, the JMA has not yet recovered any of the missing funds, saying the case is now being examined by the judicial authorities.



Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf-Hunaidi and the Ambassador of Japan Takayuki Kimura Wednesday sign a contract whereby Japan grants Jordan 50 million yen to purchase media equipment for the Jordan News Agency. Petra (Petra photo)

## Japan provides Jordan with grant to purchase modern media equipment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan has extended a 50 million yen (\$426,087) grant to Jordan for a total of 601 million yen (\$5,226 million) to finance the purchase of modern reporting and editing equipment and to help improve the agency's operational efficiency.

The agreement was signed Wednesday at the Ministry of Planning by the minister of planning, Rima Khalaf-Hunaidi, and the Ambassador of Japan, Takayuki Kimura.

The grant will finance the purchase of photographic, studio, and recording gear, and a host of related equipment and accessories.

This donation falls within the framework of the

Japanese Cultural Grant Aid (CGA) programme, first introduced into Jordan in 1982, whose purpose is to encourage and support cultural (i.e., not directly developmental) activities in the Kingdom and enhance the overall exchange between Jordan and Japan, a Japanese embassy statement said.

Since 1982, Japan has provided 15 CGA grants to Jordan for a total of 601 million yen (\$5,226 million).

Past projects include the purchase of educational equipment for the Ministry of Education (1982), sports equipment for the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped (1986), restoration of archaeological

monuments for the Department of Antiquities (1988), and audio-visual equipment for the public library of Greater Amman Municipality (1993).

Petra, officially established in 1969, is a department of the Ministry of Information. It has five departments: Reporting, Editorial, Technical, Research, and Studies. With a workforce of 200 people, including correspondents in various locations in Jordan and in major capitals of the world, it processes about a quarter-of-a-million words in Arabic and 10,000 in English daily. It has an annual budget of JD 700,000 (\$1 million).

## Conference ends with formation of association based in Amman

By Hind-Lara Mango  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A constitution for the proposed Association for Professors of English Language and Literature at Arab Universities was endorsed Tuesday at the University of Jordan, with Jordan unanimously chosen as the headquarters for this coalition.

The formulation of this association was one of two recommendations made at the First International Conference on Arabic-English Contrastive and Comparative Studies, which concluded here Wednesday.

According to Lewis Mukattash, head of the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Jordan, the idea for this association was put forward at the 1982 Conference of Departments of English, also held at the University of Jordan.

"The idea (of the organization) is to [bring together] professors of language, literature and translation at Arab universities to exchange views and ideas," Dr. Mukattash told the Jordan Times.

It is beneficial to know what academicians are doing and to be familiar with the study programmes offered at their universities, he added.

One problem faced by Arab professors of English and literature, noted Dr. Mukattash, is publication of their research papers.

He claimed that local publication is of limited value since readership of these papers is small, and said professors of English seek international publication.

"Publishing research in international journals is not an easy task. It takes sometimes up to four years to have your paper published."

The association seeks to remedy this situation by publishing a journal, possibly with international circulation, he explained.

Another major objective stated in the association's constitution was the presentation of the Arab point of view abroad in an objective, explicit, and confident manner.

This idea was echoed during the inaugural speech given by University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh, who

stated that the duties of departments of English language and literature at Arab universities should not be restricted to their traditional roles.

Dr. Gharaibeh emphasised the responsibility of these departments in taking up national issues and, in particular, the image of the Arab Muslim in the world.

A second recommendation suggested that this international conference take place bi-annually.

A Jordanian was selected for the post of association president, along with three other Jordanians to serve as members of the executive committee. Association representatives will be located in every Arab country.

Approximately 150 professors and scholars from Europe, the United States, Africa, and the Arab World participated in this event.

The proceedings of this meeting will be published in one or two volumes, said Dr. Mukattash.

## Teachers, refugees protest UNRWA cuts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A decision by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to cut services to Palestinian refugees drew strong protests from teachers employed in the agency's schools and residents of refugee camps in Jordan.

A statement from a group of teachers affiliated with the Jordanian Democratic People's Party (Hashd) addressed to their colleagues described UNRWA's plans as "clearly reflecting its intention to abandon its role and shirk its responsibilities (while) acting (as) part of a plot to liquidate the Palestinian refugee problem within the framework of what is called 'a programme for the application of peace' ending by the year 2000."

UNRWA earlier this month, due to a \$26 million deficit in its 1997 budget, revealed a plan to implement austerity measures, including cancelling the appointment of 249 teachers, cutting university grants, ending its hospitalisation programme for two months, and possibly imposing tuition fees on refugee school children at UNRWA's schools.

"Such moves can only be interpreted to mean that they are part of pressures to end the refugee problem and pave the way for the settlement of the refugees in the diaspora," the statement charged.

It warned UNRWA that such moves could only serve Israel's interests, and urged the agency to pursue its services without any reduction.

The statement called upon the Arab World and the world community to intervene and help the agency shoulder its humanitarian responsibilities toward the refugees.

Heads of refugee camp committees in Jordan meanwhile Wednesday voiced their condemnation of the agency's plans to reduce health and educational services to the refugees.

Aza Wuheidi, a spokesperson for the refugees in the Baqa'a camp, said his party demanded that no reduction be made in the agency's services, and detailed the committees' plan to send a letter to UNRWA's Commissioner General Peter Hansen to express their concerns.

## Supplies to be sent to PNA areas

AMMAN (Petra) — Upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein, medical supplies will be shipped today to Palestinian National Authority (PNA) areas. "The eight-tonne shipment will be dispatched Thursday," according to Minister of Health and Medical Care Ashraf Kurdi.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILM

\* "Brodome" at the American Center, Abdoun, on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

### DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER '97 FESTIVAL

\* Paintings by Rafa Nasiri of Iraq, Ziad Dalloul of Syria, and Najia Mehadiji at the South Hall.

\* Paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Qatout at the Middle Hall.

\* Sculpture, drawings, and paintings by Jordanian artist Rajwa Ali.

\* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the Blue House.

\* Paintings by children of Zarga reflecting on the problem of pollution at the Byzantine church.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* Works by Basem Al Mahdi at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 3.

\* Art Zaman and Bani Hamida present a Bani Hamida exhibition (rugs, cushions, runners, wall hangings and baskets) at the Al Baidar Hall of Kana Zaman, until Sept. 20.

\* Islamic Bookbinding Exhibition at the British Council, Jabal Amman, until Aug. 31.

## 2 executions scheduled today

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A man and a woman were scheduled to be executed at dawn today at Swaqa prison for the murders of two men in separate incidents in 1996, according to judicial sources.

Raya Musa, 35, was sentenced to death in November 1996 by the Criminal Court after being found guilty of poisoning her husband Ahmad Mire'e on Jan. 3, 1996, with the help of her lover Hassan Faleh, 45, who received a life sentence.

If executed as scheduled, Ms. Musa, the mother of nine children, will become the third woman to be executed in the Kingdom this year.

In June, two women were hanged at the same prison for the murder of a 45-year-

old man in Mafrag in April 1996.

Four months prior to the incident, Mr. Faleh asked Ms. Musa to divorce her husband and marry him, court transcripts said.

Knowing that her husband would not accept a divorce, the two plotted to kill him by means of rat poison and sleeping pills.

Mr. Faleh originally received the death sentence, but the Court of Cassation decided to commute his sentence to a life term, "as he did not actually poison Mr. Mire'e, but was merely waiting for the results."

The second person to be executed today is Khalid Saqa, 27, who was sentenced to death by the Criminal Court after being found guilty of murdering his younger sister in 1996.

According to court papers, the victim had dis-

covered that Mr. Saqa was stealing money and jewellery from her house, and disclosed the matter to her family, stating she did not want her brother to continue visiting her.

On the morning of the incident, Mr. Saqa went to his sister's house, argued with her, produced a rope, and strangled her, the court said.

A Royal Decree was issued recently approving both sentences after the Court of Cassation ratified the Criminal Court's rulings.

The scheduled executions will be the 10th and 11th carried out in the Kingdom this year.

Last year, 10 people were put to death in Jordan for committing various crimes.



One of Jordan's earlier fish farms started in the 1980's (file photo)

## Official suggests creation of fish research station

AMMAN (Petra) — The head of the animal husbandry department at the Ministry of Agriculture Ibrahim Abu Atileh said Wednesday that Jordan is in need of an integrated research station to improve the quality of local fish and to advise on the best conditions for breeding different types of fish to meet the growing demand of local markets.

Jordan last year produced 533 tonnes of fish from local sources such as ponds and lakes and from the Red Sea, but imports for local consumption amounted to 7,301 tonnes, Mr. Atileh said.

The imported totals were broken down into frozen fish, 2,633 tonnes, and 79 tonnes of dried and smoked fish.

A research station could deal with problems concerning the fish industry, such as breeding and diseases, and could train technicians to deal with these problems, he explained.

Lack of sufficient water and absence of technical expertise in managing fisheries are among the problems currently faced, he added.

According to Mr. Atileh, reservoirs and the King Abdullah Canal in

the Jordan Valley could be utilised to breed fish, adding that should the available surface water be properly managed, Jordan could produce 3,000 tonnes of fish annually, up from the current 350 tonnes.

Mr. Atileh said fishing in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba is limited, with only 26 kilometres of sparsely populated waters available for fishing.

He suggested that Jordan negotiate agreements with nations neighbouring the Red Sea in order to enable Jordanian fishermen to operate within the Arab regional water zones.

Jordan Times facsimile #696183



## Tensions show no sign of easing in divided Bosnian Serb Republic

BANJA LUKA (AFP) — The power struggle between rival Bosnian Serb leaders showed no signs of easing Wednesday one day after Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic tried to enlist support from the army.

A tense stalemate has now been reached with the division of the Bosnian Serb-run half of Bosnia into two rival camps cemented by a meeting between Mrs. Plavsic and a number of top army generals Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Plavsic was backing from half of the Bosnian Serb army's eight senior military commanders Tuesday but was also bitterly attacked by her hardline rivals who support her predecessor Radovan Karadzic, an indicted war criminal.

The pro-Karadzic Bosnian Serb assembly stripped her of her presidential authority over the army Tuesday and ordered the government to draw up plans for the defence of the Bosnian Serb state.

The hardliners also demanded that Ms. Plavsic's

supporters relinquish control of radio and television stations and transmitters which they recently took over near her stronghold of Banja Luka, in northwest Bosnia.

"If that does not happen in the next three days," Tuesday's parliamentary statement said, the assembly had requested that the interior ministry and the prosecutor's office to "use their legal prerogatives."

Control of the media on which most people rely for information, is crucial to both sides in their battle to win support among ordinary Serbs.

With support for the president shown by military commanders in the western half of the Serb Republic, Ms. Plavsic has effectively completed the division across the three pivotal institutions, the police, media and the army.

Out of eight top military commanders in the Bosnian Serb Army, four turned up for the meeting with Ms. Plavsic in Banja Luka.

Two of the generals who

attended Tuesday's meeting command the main army corps in the western areas where she can rely on support. The meeting was also attended by the chief of the air force.

The generals who stayed away, including the Bosnian Serb Army Commander Gen. Pero Colic, are in charge of military units in the eastern section of the Bosnian Serb Republic where Karadzic relies on his support. General Colic went on television later in the day to denounce what he said were attempts by Mrs. Plavsic to "divide the army."

"Mrs. Plavsic has already divided the people and the police, and now she wants to divide the army," Gen. Colic said, but added that the army "remains united and is keeping its distance."

Mrs. Plavsic has been locked in a power struggle with allies of Karadzic for the last two months during which time she has dismissed parliament, called new elections and sacked the interior minister.

Meanwhile postponing

Bosnia's municipal elections because of objections from the hardline Bosnian Serb parliament "is out of the question," an official for the international agency supervising the vote said Wednesday.

Bosnian Serb hardliners meeting Tuesday for a crisis session called over the on-going power struggle within the Serb-run half of Bosnia, said municipal elections should be postponed.

Deputies said that the "military and security conditions" for holding the ballot scheduled for September 13 and 14 were not in place.

Johan Verheyden, a spokesman for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) the agency organising the poll said that decisions taken by the parliament "had no validity."

The Serb's parliament was dissolved by Ms. Plavsic last month in one of the opening shots in her current battle with hardline allies of her predecessor Radovan Karadzic.



An Indian soldier takes aim on Pakistani troops at a border post in the Uri sector of the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged artillery fire along their Kashmir border for the seventh consecutive day (Reuters photo)

## India: Firing will not hurt Pakistan talks

NEW DELHI (R) — India Wednesday reaffirmed its commitment to peace talks with Pakistan and said recent cross-border firing in Kashmir was unlikely to cloud negotiations set for next month.

"Foreign secretary talks will go on," junior Foreign Minister Kamla Sinha told Reuters. She was referring to the third round of talks between the two nations' foreign secretaries set for September in New Delhi.

At least nine people have died in an upsurge of firing across the border in divided Kashmir over the past week.

Indian and Pakistani troops traded small arms fire for the seventh consecutive day Wednesday, but Indian officials said the situation was under control.

Mr. Sinha was asked if the hostilities would affect the climate at the coming talks. "No, it will not. Now it is all quiet. No firing is going on at the moment. All is quiet on the western front. The talks will go on in their full spirit," she said.

The foreign secretaries, who are the countries' highest ranking career diplomats, held the first two rounds of talks in March and June. At the latest round

in Islamabad, they announced an agenda for peace talks that included the Kashmir dispute.

"The firing will not have any impact on the foreign secretary-level talks scheduled for next month," Defence Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav told reporters outside of parliament.

"India, by saying it will not let these events affect bilateral talks, is reaffirming its very, very deep commitment to continue the processes of reasoning with Pakistan despite knowing fully well the differences of views on Kashmir are quite intractable," former Indian Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit told Reuters.

Violence preceded the first two rounds of talks, which were launched after a three-year break in high-level contacts due to tensions over Kashmir where India has been fighting a separatist rebellion.

In March, a day after India and Pakistan announced the resumption of talks, a Pakistani paramilitary Ranger was killed in firing with Indian troops across the border between Pakistan and the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Before the second round

of talks in June, Pakistan accused India of increasing tension by violating Pakistani airspace, deploying ballistic missiles near the border and killing a Pakistani army major at the Kashmir border.

India denied that one of its jet fighters had flown over Pakistan, and said the missiles had not been deployed.

Analysts said the artillery exchanges in the past week had been unusually violent and widespread, but were not likely to affect the talks.

"This means nothing for the talks," said Brigadier Vijai Nair, executive director of the Forum for Strategic and Security Studies.

Brig. Nair said Pakistan was eager to revive its economy and stabilise its political situation. Progress in the bilateral talks with India would attract U.S. economic support, he said.

But he said the chances of any compromise in the near term over Kashmir were nil. "To compromise on Kashmir would be suicide," he said.

India controls two thirds of Kashmir and Pakistan the rest, but both nations claim the entire region.

## Group starts world's tallest skyscraper in Shanghai

SHANGHAI (R) — A Japanese group Wednesday defied a sagging Shanghai real estate market and broke ground on a \$630 million skyscraper that will become the world's tallest building.

As a Chinese army band blared martial music and a swarm of balloons sailed skyward, Japanese corporate leaders, foreign dignitaries and city officials symbolically poked the first shovels into the soft Shanghai soil.

"I believe success belongs to those with vision," Shanghai's Vice Mayor Zhao Qizheng said during the ceremonies at the construction site in the heart of what will eventually be the city's financial centre.

The Shanghai World Financial Centre will rise up from the new financial heart of the city's Pudong district and tower over the famed Bund — the old, pre-Communist business centre along the waterfront.

When the office tower and hotel is completed in 2001 it will climb 94 storeys or 460 metres, making it eight metres taller than the current world leader, the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur.

The main backer of the project is a subsidiary of the privately held Mori Building Co. Ltd. but it has been joined by 36 other corporate investors, a virtual who's who of Japanese banks, trading firms and insurance companies.

A Mori official said the cost of the building, calculated at current foreign exchange rates, will rise with internal construction work. One-third of the total will be raised from equity and the rest will have to be borrowed.

But the project is moving ahead at a time when Shanghai has gone through its first building boom and is now suffering from a glut of real estate.

Empty and half-empty buildings dot the landscape, some of them abandoned for lack of funds and tenants.

Work began on the Shanghai World Financial Centre almost in the shadow of the Jinmao Tower, an 88-storey skyscraper that will hold its topping out ceremony Thursday.

"Both buildings are going to increase supply enormously," said Sam Crispin, senior manager at property managers First Pacific Davies.

The Shanghai World Financial Centre will add 335,700 square metres of total floor space onto the market, which is struggling to absorb supply.

The vacancy rate in Pudong's financial district is expected to soar to 43 per cent next year though it is likely to drop to around 15 per cent by the time the World Financial Centre is ready.

Minoru Mori, president of Mori Building Co. Ltd. brushed aside concerns about the strength of the Shanghai real estate market, saying his project would find plenty of customers.

"There seems to be a lot of empty buildings in Shanghai but if you count the floor space ready to be occupied the vacancy rate is not that high," he told reporters after the ceremony.

"I believe in 2001 when the building is completed, that will be the second boom for high quality buildings," he added. "Then we will be ready."

The great height of the slender building and its construction on soft soil will require special reinforcement, adding to construction costs, moving materials to such heights also means further expense.

Shanghai residents will be able to distinguish the glass and metal covered building not only by its height but also its distinctive round hole near the top.

## N. Korean family of 3 defect to South Korea

SEOUL (R) — A North Korean family of three have defected to South Korea via a third country, Seoul's intelligence agency said Wednesday.

In a statement, the agency for national security planning said Suh Chang-Eum, 68, and her daughter Kim Young-Suk, 30, arrived in the western port of Incheon Monday last week. Mr. Suh's son, Kim Ho-Rim, 33, landed at the same port Friday.

The statement gave no details on how they arrived at Incheon.

An official at the agency said the family came to Incheon by boat but declined to say which third country the family sailed from.

"I guess it was difficult for the whole family to come together, so they came separately," said the official who declined to be identified.

The statement said the daughter worked on a farm and the son in a factory.

The announcement of the family's defection comes after confirmation by the United States that North Korea's ambassador to Egypt and his brother and family have been granted asylum in the U.S.

Jang Seung-Il, Pyongyang's envoy to Cairo, is the most senior diplomat to defect from the North.

According to the Ministry of National Unification, more than 800 North Koreans have defected to the South since 1949, and the number has been increasing rapidly since 1993. So far this year 55 have left the Communist North for the South.

North and South Korea have been divided since the end of World War II and are still technically at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce rather than a peace agreement.

Meanwhile, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto voiced concern Wednesday that North Korean diplomats' defections to the United States may harm peace talks for the Korean Peninsula.

"Now that four-way peace

talks and other negotiations have started moving ahead, I hope it will have no big impact," Jiji Press quoted Mr. Hashimoto as telling reporters at his official residence.

Besides the peace talks among the two Koreas, China and the United States, the premier also showed concern about a possible impact on Tokyo's negotiation with North Korea on normalising ties, the news agency said.

Last week in Beijing, Japan and North Korea agreed to hold further talks on resuming bilateral talks without setting a date.

Washington announced it had granted political asylum to North Korea's ambassador to Egypt Jang Sung-Gil, his wife, and brother Jang Sung-Ho economic councillor at North Korea's general delegation in France.

Mr. Jang Sung-Gil is the first North Korean ambassador ever to defect to a Western country. His defection is the most significant since that of North Korean propaganda chief Hwang Jang-Yop to South Korea in Feb.

North Korea's first official reaction came Wednesday, when the Korean Central News Agency quoted a government official as demanding the two diplomats be extradited and tried for leaking state secrets.

In a separate development, North Korea is withdrawing from a key U.N. human rights treaty in protest at a resolution, backed by the United States and other countries, accusing Pyongyang of serious rights violations, its deputy U.N. ambassador said here Wednesday.

Han Chang On told a briefing that the resolution passed against North Korea last week could also jeopardise upcoming peace talks with South Korea slated to be held in New York.

North Korea sent a letter Monday to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan stating that the country would pull out from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Mr. Han said.

## Thai flood toll rises to 24

BANGKOK (R) — Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh Wednesday toured flood-hit southern Thailand, where the death toll stood at 24, and ordered the urgent dispatch of food and medicine to victims.

Mr. Chavalit, Deputy Prime Minister Sukavit Rangsiaphol and Interior Minister Sonth Thienthong arrived in Chumpon, the province hardest hit by several days of heavy tropical rains, early Wednesday.

The premier ordered officials in Chumpon to send food and medical supplies to flood victims immediately, especially to people living in remote villages.

"The sky is quite clear this morning but it won't be for too long. Medicine must be sent to people affected by floods, and officials must try to help solve their problems which might arise in the immediate future," Mr. Chavalit said.

Mr. Sonth told reporters in Chumpon that the government had decided to initially set aside 800 million baht (\$23.53 million) to help the victims.

Twelve people drowned in Chumpon and 12 others were killed in five other provinces over the past few days, an Interior Ministry spokeswoman told Reuters Wednesday.

At least six other people were injured in the flooding that hit southern Thailand after several days of heavy rains that submerged many towns and cut off several roads and rail lines, the

spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman said total damages had not been estimated, but the damage in Chumpon alone were probably about 1.7 billion baht.

The Public Health Ministry in Bangkok Wednesday sent 100,000 doses of medicine for diarrhoea and foot diseases to Chumpon, a ministry official told Reuters.

It earlier sent 50,000 doses of a similar medicine and a large amount of antivenom serum to the province, the official said.

"The serum is meant to help victims of Malayan snakes. There are a lot of this kind of snakes in Chumpon and nearby areas," the official said.

The flooding had cut sections of highways and railway lines in Chumpon and Surat Thani in the mid-south, and halted train and truck service between the region and Bangkok earlier in the week.

A rubber trader said that emergency measures taken by the government had allowed some trucks to get through by road to Chumpon.

Local television footage showed the water in some areas starting to recede.

Some areas in the afflicted provinces were also without electricity and telephone services.

## U.S. seeks drug-intercept permission from neighbours

SAN JOSE (R) — The United States wants to send military planes and warships to Central America and the Caribbean to help local police forces intercept drug shipments, Costa Rica's security minister said Tuesday.

The far-reaching plan aims to expand upon intelligence-sharing agreements the U.S. already has with many countries in the region, Security Minister Laura Chinchilla told Reuters in an interview.

Washington has asked countries in the region to allow U.S. warships and planes to use their territorial waters and airspace to track down other vessels and aircraft suspected of carrying drugs.

The crews would include U.S. military personnel with qualified observers from countries who grant permission to pursue suspected drug traffickers into local airspace or territorial waters,

Mr. Chinchilla said.

In the interview, Mr. Chinchilla showed Reuters documents outlining the U.S. offer and other steps the U.S. is proposing.

The large scope of the proposal likely would have serious diplomatic and political implications in small countries long way of the colossus to the north.

"Even though in the particular case of Costa Rica we are in agreement in principle

with the U.S. offer, we have sent the matter to the attorney general's office so that it can offer an opinion," Mr. Chinchilla said.

An agreement to allow foreign troops to operate within their national territory would violate the constitution of some of the countries involved. Therefore United States would need permission from the local legislature of some countries in the region.

But the benefits to the U.S. anti-drug effort are obvious cutting off the escape routes for drug traffickers who can avoid U.S. interdiction efforts by seeking refuge in the national waters or airspace of a third country.

Most countries in Central America and the Caribbean lack sophisticated air and sea defence systems that can be used to hone in on drug traffickers.

## IRA has shown 'genuineness' over ceasefire — Mowlam

LONDON (R) — Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam said Wednesday the Irish Republican Army (IRA) had shown some "genuineness" in their current ceasefire.

But Ms. Mowlam said she was not yet ready to decide whether the guerrilla group's political wing Sinn Fein should be allowed into talks on the province's future.

"It is a positive picture as it was put to me by some folk in the security services yesterday," she told BBC Television.

Ms. Mowlam said she would have to consult Prime Minister Tony Blair before deciding whether Sinn Fein should be admitted to the

multi-party talks which resume on Sept. 15.

"By word and deed, they (the IRA) have shown a certain degree of genuineness, I have no doubt about that," Ms. Mowlam said.

"But I still want to make the judgement in the round. I want to talk to the prime minister, and I haven't made as yet a final judgment," she added.

The IRA resumed their ceasefire in July after the government dropped a British insistence that the guerrillas start disposing of their weapons before being admitted to talks.

The British and Irish governments Tuesday announced agreement on an

independent international commission on (arms) decommissioning which would operate alongside the talks.

The move met with a mixed reaction from protestant political parties who want Britain to retain sovereignty over the province.

David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party which has half the province's 18 MPs, said the Dublin-London deal was inadequate. "The agreement itself has very little substance in it," he said.

But David Ervine, leader of the Progressive Unionist Party which has links with Protestant guerrillas, described the agreement as a

"historic document."

"The question is 'have they done enough to get rid of the illegal weapons,' and the answer is that they can't do much more given that it is a voluntary process," he said.

Britain and Ireland announced Tuesday the forming of a new body intended to rid Northern Ireland of guerrilla arms and help secure a permanent peace after decades of bloodshed.

Ministers said the "independent international commission on decommissioning" would operate alongside full-scale talks due to start on Sept. 15 and would have offices in Belfast and Dublin.

Ms. Mowlam and Irish

Foreign Affairs Minister Ray Burke signed an agreement on the commission during 90 minutes of talks in Belfast.

Despite ceasefires, pro-Irish IRA and pro-British loyalist militias are refusing to hand in the weapons they have used in a 28-year war over the future of rule by Britain.

But Britain and Ireland hope that the establishment of a commission to supervise a handover of armaments will be a spur for multi-party talks that have been paralysed by rows over the illegal weaponry for more than a year.

The ministers said they were honouring a commit-

ment by their governments and they appealed to reluctant Protestant parties to bury suspicions about the September talks and take their seats in them.

"It (the peace process) needs a leap of faith on all sides. We are giving it the best push that we can. Now we need some support from all parties around the table," Mr. Burke told reporters.

"The signing of this agreement paves the way for the commission to be ready to commence work on a fully operational basis alongside the start of substantive negotiations on Sept. 15," said Ms. Mowlam.

"To achieve this goal, the two governments are also

taking a range of other steps including joint approaches to the U.S., Canadian and French governments to help identify members of the commission," she added.

Furious Protestant politicians, speaking for the province's pro-British majority, accuse London and Dublin of bending over backwards to appease the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and spirit its political arm Sinn Fein into the September talks.

Many Protestant politicians regard an IRA cessation of violence, declared on July 20, as only a short-term tactic and are angry that Sinn Fein is poised to come to the table before any arms are surrendered.



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The town of Cork Hill sits at the foot of the ash spewing Montserrat Volcano seen from Fleming Hill in Salem. Officials with the Montserrat Observatory say that the volcano is going through a period of nonexplosive dome growth (Reuter photo)

## Montserrat chief says full evacuation 'reasonable'

ST. JOHN'S, Antigua (R) — Montserrat's chief minister said Tuesday Britain might push for a total evacuation of the Caribbean island because the society had been totally destroyed by volcanic eruptions.

David Brandt said it was a "reasonable conclusion" that London might seek a complete evacuation as a way to end the crisis caused by the Soufriere Hills Volcano, but called on the British government to support development of the island's unscarred northern end.

"The business sector has been destroyed, there is not sufficient housing, the school system cannot operate because people are being sheltered in the schools, and it is a total destruction of the society," Mr. Brandt told a news conference.

The volcano burst to life in July 1995 and has devastated the southern half of the island. Fiery eruptions in June destroyed seven villages and killed 19 people, and hot rock flows in early August destroyed much of the capital, Plymouth.

Mr. Brandt, in Antigua for an emergency meeting with Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders on how to tackle Montserrat's devastation, blasted Britain over its handling of the crisis and demanded it release funds to develop the north, the only area scientists consider safe.

"It is wrong to give the international community the impression that we have given you £41 million (\$65 million) and at the same time secretly stopping the spending of those funds," Mr. Brandt said.

Montserrat authorities said Britain had frozen the funding while waiting to see how many islanders accept its offer of evacuation assistance.

Britain and its colony have traded angry barbs in the past few days over handling of the disaster, with Montserratians saying London was doing too little and a British minister accusing its leaders of flouting "irresponsible fantasy figures" for relocation compensation.

Adults who want to settle on other Caribbean islands have been offered about \$4,000 and children \$1,000.

Montserrat has lost more than half its population in the past two years and on Saturday Britain's Royal Navy began an official evacuation, but local officials said fewer than 100 of the 4,000-5,000 people remaining had left, with most awaiting the outcome of the battle over relocation aid.

Mr. Brandt lamented that Montserrat's centuries-old society — Columbus named the island in 1493 — might vanish.

"How are you going to put a financial measure on the disappearance of a whole country?"

London Tuesday announced that George Foulkes, under secretary of state for international development, would visit

Montserrat this weekend to ease tensions with the territory.

Mr. Brandt, who became chief minister Friday following the sudden resignation of Bertrand Osborne, met Tuesday with Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson, Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell, St. Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Denzil Douglas and Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Lester Bird.

Mr. Patterson told reporters the CARICOM economic alliance was backing Montserrat's call for Britain to provide more support.

"We hope that the support of the British government will be more tangible, more immediately evident and more quick than has been the case so far," he said.

Antigua, 43 kilometres northeast of Montserrat, has given refuge to about 3,000 people displaced by the volcano, but says it cannot afford to shelter fleeing Montserratians.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said Wednesday he had launched a review into how Britain treats its dependent territories in the wake of the dispute with the volcano-ravaged Montserrat.

"I will be making a major policy speech on the dependent territories next February. A priority for the foreign office between now and then will be to ensure we come up with a consistent policy," Mr. Cook told reporters during a flight to South East Asia.

Britain is mired in a row over the level of aid it is offering to the people of Montserrat, one of the 12 small so-called dependent territories which are all that remains of a once mighty empire.

"We will go through the dozen territories and ensure there is a custom-made solution for each of them. We have to ensure there is no suspicion of any neglect," Mr. Cook said in comments clearly aimed at the unhappy inhabitants of Montserrat, many of whom say Britain has forsaken them.

Islanders have said Britain's offer of aid to those wishing to leave Montserrat is derisory, prompting British International Development Secretary Clare Short to denounce them as greedy and unrealistic.

"There has obviously been a failure of communication over the last few weeks, but not a failure of policy," said Mr. Cook, whose ministry has ultimate responsibility for Montserrat.

On Monday, the British government announced the creation of an action group to coordinate aid to the islanders — a move widely seen as sidelining short after her headline comments.

Mr. Cook said Britain could only now turn its mind to reviewing policy towards the dependent territories because it had previously been concentrating all its efforts on the July 1 handover of Hong Kong to China.

## Philippine leader says no to second term

MANILA (AFP) — Fidel Ramos Wednesday renewed his pledge to step down from the Philippine presidency in 1998, amid growing protest led by his predecessor Corason Aquino against moves to amend the constitution.

"I do not seek a second term for myself," Mr. Ramos told a regional conference of

Asia-Pacific justices here.

Ms. Aquino, who had backed Mr. Ramos in the 1992 election, announced Tuesday that she and Roman Catholic archbishop, Cardinal Jaime Sin would lead a rally next month against proposed moves for charter changes.

Mr. Ramos reiterated, however, that he supported Filipinos' right to change the constitution and for lawmakers to call for a constituent assembly since this was "enshrined in the same constitution."

"I nonetheless recognise and respect the people's right to petition for constitutional change. No earthly

power can ever take that

away from them," he said. "It is likewise the right of the representatives of our people who have been elected to congress to decide what is best for our future by way of enlightened laws and even amendments to our constitution," Mr. Ramos added.

"This is why I irritate

certain circles — because I am much closer to the people at the bottom than to the people at the top, and the latter do not forgive me. Because I have a genuine feeling of closeness with the humblest.

"My father always taught me to treat everyone as an equal, and I am certain that (sons) Harry and William follow this example," she said.

Princess Diana said that being constantly in the public eye placed a heavy responsibility on her, which she did not take lightly.

"If I had to define my role, I would use the word 'messenger'," she said, explaining that she used her public appearances "to transmit a message, sensitise the world to an important cause, defend certain values."

"Nothing makes me happier than to try to help society's most vulnerable," she said. "That is a goal and a crucial part of my life, a sort of destiny. Whenever someone in distress calls, I will hasten there, wherever that may be."

## Diana hits out at press and Conservatives

PARIS (R) — Princess Diana hit out at the British press and the former Conservative government in a rare interview published in France Wednesday, and said she would have left Britain long ago but for her sons.

The press is ferocious. It pardons nothing, it only hunts for mistakes. Every motive is twisted, every gesture criticised," Princess Diana said in the interview with the French daily Le Monde.

"Overseas, it's different. I am welcomed with kindness, I am accepted for what I am," she said, according to the French translation of her comments.

"In Great Britain it's the opposite. And I think that in my place, any sane person would have left long ago. But I cannot. I have my sons."

In a party political comment, very rare for a member of the royal family and sure to stir up controversy, Princess Diana hailed the new Labour government's decision to push for a ban on anti-personnel landmines

and attacked its Conservative predecessor.

She said the position of the Labour Party had always been clear on the subject.

"It will do a great job. Its predecessor was so hopeless. I hope we will manage to convince the United States to sign a treaty to ban landmines in December in Ottawa."

In the interview, headlined "the princess with a big heart," Princess Diana added: "Over the course of the years, I have had to learn to ignore criticism. But the irony is that it has been useful to me in giving me a strength I didn't know I possessed."

The 36-year-old princess has been in the public eye lately mainly due to a high-profile romance with Dodi Al Fayed, Egyptian heir to Harrods Department Store in London.

Newspapers around the world have splashed pictures of the couple nuzzling up to one another during a string of recent holidays.

The latest batch of photos, published Monday, showed

the pair caressing each other while Mr. Fayed's yacht was moored at the Italian resort of Portofino.

Princess Diana, divorced from heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles a year ago this week, has previously gone to great lengths to keep her men friends out of the public eye but appears to have cast caution aside in the case of Mr. Fayed, 42.

The interview with Le Monde journalist Annick Cojean in London steered clear of her love life, focusing on Princess Diana's humanitarian efforts such as her campaign against anti-personnel mines and frequent visits to hospitals and poor people in developing nations.

Princess Diana said that she had felt her freedom become constrained when she joined the royal family.

"From the day I entered that family, nothing could be done naturally," she said.

"I feel close to people, whoever they may be. Right off, we are at the same level, on the same wavelength," Princess Diana said.

## Taleban forces claim gains north of Afghan capital

KABUL (AFP) — In only four hours of fighting north of the Afghan capital, the Taleban militia have claimed the capture of key ground from their northern-based opponents, a frontline commander told AFP Wednesday.

Frontline chief Haji Abdul Malik said a number of villages in the Koh-e-Safi district — 50 kilometres north-east of Kabul — had been recaptured in the first Taleban advances in more than a month.

"We captured Ahmad Zahi, Jal-e-Qala, Scandera and Saparay villages of Koh-e-Safi in the offensive," Mr. Malik said.

No independent confirmation of the claims was immediately available.

The dusty district which guards a key northern entrance to Kabul fell into the hands of the anti-Taleban

after fierce fighting one week ago.

Mr. Malik said 25 troops loyal to ousted government strongman Ahmad Shah Masood were killed and a further 30 were taken prisoner.

"We suffered no casualties as we managed to outflank them," Mr. Malik explained, adding the usual militia assertion that opposition "forces of evil and corruption" have no morale.

Mr. Malik also promised more Taleban action on the frontlines that zig-zags north of the Afghan capital and at the closest point are within a mere 25 kilometres from the city centre.

"Every inch and every rock of the country is vital for us to take and bring Shariat (Islamic law)," Mr. Malik said.

Meanwhile, Afghan sources in Pakistan said Masood

loyalists Wednesday opened a new front in eastern Afghanistan against the Taleban, launching attacks at four places.

The opposition troops led by Commander Hazrat Ali attacked Taleban positions in eastern Nangarhar and Kunar provinces, the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported.

The offensive was launched in Khewa, 30 kilometres north of the Nangarhar provincial capital Jalalabad, AIP said.

The fighting which spread to other areas was now raging in Nangar, Sarkani and Chowkai districts of Kunar province.

At least six people were killed on both sides including a senior Taleban official whose jeep was hit by an artillery shell, the private information service said.

Taleban authorities have

rushed 400 militiamen to reinforce their strength in the battle zone, AIP quoted Taleban officials as saying.

The Taleban militia which captured the eastern provinces last year before seizing Kabul in September, have been challenged previously also in the area by commanders loyal to the ousted government of former president Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The latest attacks coincide with pressure by Masood forces on the Afghan capital.

The opposition thrust on Kabul suffered a setback last week when their shadow prime minister Abdul Rahim Ghaforzi died in a plane crash at central Bamian province.

The anti-Taleban alliance is currently engaged in negotiations to find a replacement, Afghan sources said.

## Swiss sterilised mental patients — historian

GENEVA (R) — Swiss doctors sterilised mentally handicapped patients against their will under a law passed in 1928, a copy of which was requested by Adolf Hitler, a Swiss historian said.

Hans Ulrich Jost, a professor of history at the University of Lausanne, told Swiss Television Tuesday night that many people — nine out of 10 of them women — were affected by the

campaign, in the canton of Vaud.

"Even Hitler requested a copy of the law from the canton and from the government in Bern as a basis for Nazi Germany's own racist laws," Mr. Jost said.

"It is hard to say how many sterilisations were carried out based on the law but the number must have been high," he added.

The historian said the campaign resembled racial cleansing "sciences" practised in Sweden and Norway after World War I.

Sweden have been shocked by recent revelations that Social Democratic Swedish governments sterilised 60,000 women to rid society of "inferior" racial types and to encourage Aryan features.

Mr. Jost said French-speaking Vaud, in western Switzerland, was the only canton with such a law but said he believed similar forced sterilisations were carried out in other parts of the Alpine country.

One young woman, two months pregnant, was recommended for sterilisation because she was "feeble-minded, morally weak, idiotic and promiscuous," according to one document shown on television.

It was issued by the Zurich University Polyclinic and dated 1944.

Swiss media reacted with shock.

"Sterilising people to force them to be sterile because they are annoying to others and to create a pure race is an inadmissible practice," French-language daily Tribune de Geneve said on its front page.

The newspaper said the practice was started in Vaud by Swiss psychiatrist Auguste Forel, who arrived in the canton from Zurich and convinced officials there of the need for a "racial hygiene" campaign.

The sterilisation law was passed in Vaud in 1928, Swiss Television said. Media Wednesday quoted Vaud officials as saying the practice was stopped more than 20 years ago.

Mr. Jost said Germany asked for a copy of the Vaud law in 1934 as a basis for its own racist legislation.

## NASA satellite spins out of control

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — A recently launched NASA Earth-observing spacecraft is spinning out of control and may be lost altogether, the U.S. space agency said.

The Earth-orbiting Lewis spacecraft, which blasted off last Friday from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, was found to be spinning twice a minute when ground controllers contacted it early Tuesday.

"Preliminary indications are that excessive thruster firing had occurred on one side of the spacecraft, causing it to spin when it should be stable," the space agency said in a statement.

"That has disrupted the spacecraft's power-generating capability, raising the potential of the loss of the mission."

The spinning motion was preventing the satellite's solar panels from pointing at the sun, causing its batteries to drain. Four later attempts to contact the spacecraft were unsuccessful.

The 385-kilogramme satellite was built for NASA by TRW and was to have operated for a minimum of three years. The \$65 million mission was hailed by NASA as a champion of its recently adopted "faster, cheaper, better" philosophy.

NASA said the Earth-observing satellite had commercial applications for pollutant monitoring, analysis of endangered species habitats, and estimation of forest and agricultural productivity.

The Lewis spacecraft was in a circular parking orbit and space agency officials said they had at least three weeks to try to resolve the problem.

"NASA and TRW are working hard to assess and better understand the situation, in order to establish a recovery plan and try to resume the mission," Samuel Venneri, chief Technologist at NASA headquarters said in the statement.

There were also on board automatic systems that might be able to correct the problem and recharge the batteries, he added.

Lewis is part of NASA's mission to planet Earth, a long-term multi-billion dollar Earth-observing programme.

## Hun Sen loyalists rain mortars on last Cambodian royalist bastion

CHANGE CHOM (AFP) —

Troops loyal to Cambodian strongman Hun Sen Wednesday began raining mortars and shells on the last royalist outpost here after the besieged forces launched a guerrilla war against their rivals.

The attack, the first by the stronger Phnom Penh troops here in three days, came after a long overnight lull in fighting for the town of O'Smach, which lies opposite this Thai border hamlet.

Heavy weapons rounds fired by Second Premier Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party troops rained down on the ramshackle wooden buildings that line O'Smach's only street, gutting the market and scores of buildings and leaving most of the trading town ablaze.

Plumes of black smoke rose up from the burning houses and shops in the hill-top town, still desperately defended by the troops of ousted First Premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Four soldiers loyal to the prince were seriously wounded and taken across the border into Thailand, the Thai military said.

"There is a lot of fighting but we are not sure what is happening or whether any side is attempting to move on the other," a Thai military officer at the fenced border here said.

The besieged forces of the prince responded to the latest barrage weakly, only sending off a mortar or cannon volley occasionally amid continuous fire from their better armed and

equipped enemies.

The latest outbreak of fighting here came as the Thai military said the royalists had changed their military tactics from the conventional to guerrilla in a bid to retain some military influence in Cambodia.

"(Prince Ranariddh's) FUNCINPEC soldiers have begun using guerrilla tactics to fight Hun Sen's men in this area," Major General Churasak Chirasak Prommopakorn said.

"We think that Ranariddh's troops have begun a new military strategy to reduce the efficiency of the opposing forces of Hun Sen," another senior officer who requested anonymity told AFP.

"Last night there was fire coming from the Hun Sen-held town of Samrong and we believe it was the result of a guerrilla attack on Hun Sen," the officer added.

Samrong is located about 40 kilometres south of O'Smach.

The Thai officers said this was the first time the troops of the prince, who was ousted by Mr. Hun Sen after a weekend of street fighting in Phnom Penh last month, had changed their strategy of attack.

The comments came despite a call Tuesday by Prince Ranariddh for a ceasefire and peace talks with Hun Sen's government.

He said the gesture would be a "welcoming present" to mark the return of the prince's father, King Norodom Sihanouk, to his country Friday. But while the

Phnom Penh government

agreed to the call, it insisted that the royalist forces first lay down their arms, a condition angrily rejected by ousted Prince Ranariddh.

In rebuffing Hun Sen's conditions for a ceasefire, the prince said that to accept them would amount to "surrender" and would leave them open to assassination.

King Sihanouk, who has been receiving medical attention in Beijing since February, is to fly directly to the northern Cambodian town of Siem Reap, site of the Angkor temple complex, Friday.

In a separate development, the head of the Khmer Journalists Association (KJA) said Wednesday that press freedom is in danger in Cambodia as many independent journalists have gone into exile or are afraid to speak out following last month's coup by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Pin Samkhon, self-exiled president of the KJA, said opposition voices virtually had been silenced since Hun Sen ousted first Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh on July 6.

I think all opposition and independent editors are outside the country, said Mr. Samkhon, editor of the now-suspended Phnom Penh newspaper The Independent.

He told a seminar organised by the U.S.-based Freedom Forum in Hong Kong that journalists had not yet been thrown in jail, but all who stayed were afraid to criticise the Hun Sen government.

## Residents flee fighting in Brazzaville

KINSHASA (AFP) — Fearful residents of southern Brazzaville have fled to nearby villages after Congolese government forces stepped up attacks against supporters of former military strongman Denis Sassou Nguesso, state radio said Wednesday.

Monday's raids were the first airborne attack by forces loyal to President Pascal Lissouba since hostilities broke out on June 5 after the head of state sought to disarm his opponent's Cobra militia ahead of now postponed elections.

Fighting in Brazzaville had previously involved heavy arms fire from multiple rocket launchers and mortars, as well as automatic weapons and smaller guns.

Bacongo and Makele-Kele, two districts in the south of the capital controlled by Bernard Kolelas, the Brazzaville mayor and mediator in the conflict, have so far been spared serious violence, witnesses said.



## Jordan Times

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Jordan Times advertising department.Refugees need  
to be rescued

IN WHAT is definitely a negative measure that will make more difficult the lives of Palestinian refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), has decided to reduce services it offers to refugees. The decision is the result of severe budget constraints that the agency says make the maintenance of the current level of services not possible.

Jordan has rightly rejected UNRWA's decision, warning of the alarming consequences the reduction of services offered to the refugees will result in. UNRWA should be enabled to reverse its decision. The international community and especially the traditional donor countries have a moral and political responsibility towards the agency and the people it serves. This is a responsibility that must be shouldered.

UNRWA was established by the United Nations to exclusively deal with the Palestine refugees problem. Its mandate must continue until this problem is resolved in accordance with international law that upholds the refugees' right to compensation and return. The notion that developed in the wake of the Madrid peace conference that UNRWA must be eventually phased out has devastating consequences for the refugees and the countries in which they live. The international community cannot expect the host countries to shoulder the burden of providing for refugees alone.

Jordan, the largest host and donor country to Palestinian refugees, has repeatedly stressed the importance of meeting the humanitarian rights of refugees. Its policy has been predicated on meeting the humanitarian needs and improving the living conditions of refugees not as an alternative to the fulfillment of their political rights and aspirations but as a necessary prerequisite for realising these rights and keeping the issue alive. In all international forums, the country has urged donor nations to continue their financial support for refugees. A few months ago in Amman, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan warned at a meeting of UNRWA's major donors of the danger inherent in ignoring the issue of refugees which is increasingly becoming politically incorrect. Prince Hassan called on donor nations to maintain their financial support for UNRWA. This is a call that must be heeded. The Palestinian refugees are living under extremely difficult conditions that should not be made more nightmarish. Jordan, whose annual spending of about \$350 million on refugees is equal to UNRWA's annual budget and other host countries, simply do not have the financial means to meet all the needs of refugees.

As the search for a political solution to the refugees problem continues, humanitarian assistance to them must not be halted. Donor countries should not deduct assistance they give to the Palestinian National Authority from their contributions to UNRWA. The West Bank and Gaza are only two of five areas of operation in which UNRWA operates. Refugees living in these areas of operation are entitled to a dignified life and to the vital services that UNRWA offers.

The international community must move fast to rescue UNRWA and the people it serves. Abandoning UNRWA at this very sensitive point in the effort to bring about peace and stability to the Middle East will help no one, neither the refugees and nor the cause of peace itself.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm criticised China for responding to Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu's desire and announcing that it will refrain from selling Iran any materials needed for its nuclear reactor. Saleh Qallab said that China will be the losing party in trade if it favours Israel, with its five million inhabitants, over Iran's 60 million. Iran represents a vast market for China's products, unlike Israel, which is an industrial state with little need for China's products, the writer pointed out. He said under the founders of modern China, Beijing never wavered in providing support for the Arab causes and the causes of nations struggling against colonial powers and seeking freedom, noted the writer. He said it is clear that Israel is a colonial power which maintains its occupation of Arab lands and it is most surprising to see China siding by Israel and responding to its call not to provide Iran with the material needed for its nuclear reactor although Tehran has been reiterating its intention to use the reactor for peaceful purposes. China, said the writer, seems to have taken an unprecedented step, when it opted for political interests rather than stick to its ideological and economic interests, when it favoured Israel.

## View from Academia

## Tawjihi and the many traumas in its aftermath

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoub

THE AFTERMATH of the tawjihi is a trauma for most parents and their children who pass the exam successfully in our society, in addition to the trauma, of course, which precedes and accompanies it. The aftermath is a time of decisions — ones which cause, for the many, a great deal of anxiety, stress, pain and, often, torture and misery: what university to choose and what speciality? The speciality of university you (as a parent) want or the one your son/daughter wants? The one your son/daughter really wants to attend (in case of the university) or choose (in case of the speciality), or the one their grades in the tawjihi entitle them to attend or choose?

And there is the trauma of those parents whose children fail to obtain the grades which enable them to attend national universities. Not those whose children get below 65 per cent and are not — in accordance with national admission regulations — allowed to file an application for admission at the national universities but those whose children obtain grades above 65 (usually between 65 and 75) and who have no chance of being admitted, for the competition is tough.

These parents and children have probably a rougher and tougher time than the rest. Unless these children come through one of the categories which the national admission policy makes an exception to (i.e. that of the remote governorates, of the children of army personnel or teachers, etc., who may be admitted with a grade of 65, 69 or 72), they have no chance of being admitted to national universities. The choice they have is either to attend private universities or seek admission abroad (of course, many of them never think of joining community colleges, even though some of them do).

What makes their trauma tougher is that for a while, many of them think that if they pull the right strings, they may get admission to national universities — an assumption which though false they believe in their heart of hearts to be true. You attempt to convince a parent who approaches you to help his son/daughter get admitted (i.e. those whose grades are in the range of 65-75) that unless their sons/daughters are entitled to be on one of the lists of the exceptional categories referred to above, there is no way they will be accepted. Our national universities observe the rules and regulations of admission faithfully and meticulously. But such parents never believe you. Drawing on their experience with other institutions and other applications, they think

if they push harder in the direction of finding the right string, they may be able to pull it through; a false hope and a misconception which causes them and those they bombard with visits and phone calls a great deal of pain and embarrassment.

And there is the trauma of those parents whose children obtain high grades in the school certificate (say 97 per cent) but get a low grade in the tawjihi (say 70 per cent), and they are puzzled by what happened.

As long as the tawjihi is with us (and one does not see a better alternative in the near future) such traumas will be with us for some time.

## 'Will Jordan be the Singapore of the Middle East?'

By Izzat R. Dajani

COMPARATIVE STUDIES usually offer best assessments due to the fact that set criteria and performance indicators are being benchmarked and referenced. And through comparing, for example, it could be found out whether Jordan and Singapore are alike or different.

Both countries fall under the criteria and definition of emerging markets. It was only in 1986 that the International Finance Corporation (IFC) started to exert efforts to promote capital market development in the less developed countries which have low and middle per capita income.

Jordan and Singapore could be said to have similar physical structures or modes of governance; they certainly share similar structural and political input. They each have a relatively small population base of about 4 million people. The inhabitants tend to be multi-ethnic in nature, with Chinese, Malay and Indians forming the bulk mix in Singapore and Jordan having Armenians, Bosnians, Chechens and Circassians among the Jordanian/Palestinian majority.

Both countries seem to cherish happy co-existence and accept different religions as practised by the differing ethnic groups. Politically, Jordan and Singapore have each been governed by strong and progressive leaderships with clear vision, wisdom and determined focus.

Both countries endured long hardships after obtaining their respective independence, but managed to maintain recognisable levels of domestic stability in an otherwise volatile region.

It is in the economic performance where Singapore and Jordan do not have matching results, with markedly different economic output. Whilst Jordan's gross national product (GNP) per capita is about \$1,200, it is dwarfed by Singapore's staggering figure, in excess of \$11,000.

Jordan's market capitalisation, as registered in 1992, was \$3.40 billion, as compared to Singapore's \$49.00 billion. Whilst market capitalisation was spread across different stocks in Singapore, it was concentrated in the ten largest stocks, which themselves held 49 per cent share of the total market capitalisation, according to the 1992 official data. This is due to the tendency of many companies in Jordan to be held by families or by the government, with the number of shares available for trading or purchase limited. The number of listed companies on the stock exchange in Jordan, for the same period, was 103, as compared to Singapore's 213.

There have been many factors positively influencing economic developments in both Jordan and Singapore. Trends towards lower death rates and longer life spans have had a dramatic impact on education and experience levels, with marked influence on economic abilities and aspirations. There has also been the powerful impact of technology, with the ensuing results of better communication and much improved productivity.

Whilst data is not available for Jordan, the number of telephones in 1991 was highest in Singapore amongst all other emerging markets, with the exception of Hong Kong which had the same figure, 500 telephones per 1,000 people. In Jordan, the rise in living standards created a critical demand for telephone services, with people often having to wait more than two years for tele-

phones to be installed and with exorbitant fees.

Singapore has excelled in implementing a modern economic philosophy in which market economic systems are most successful in stimulating economic growth. Its gross domestic product (GDP) for 1995 was \$121 billion, growing at eight per cent annually.

Without further delving into the Jordanian factors, as they are known to most analysts and economic/political observers in the Middle East, I will try to highlight the significant criteria that influenced Singapore's miraculous economic development.

Lee Kuan Yew presided over the government from 1959 till he stepped down in 1990, after which he remained as a senior minister. He ironically said that since 1959, Singapore has had only "one" government during which time young men were brought into the government, given responsibilities and encouraged to gain experience. Core members of the Singapore government today have experience that averages over 15 years. They are instrumental in maintaining, if not developing, economic and administrative performances.

Lee Kuan Yew attributed this progress to two basic factors: — A government which was clean, free from corruption, capable and serious and whose accumulated experience resulted in improved judgement.

— A people who were united and worked together with employers and the government to overcome the difficulties the country faced, and backed tough government policies in order to overcome those difficulties.

Singapore took advantage to the most of its geographic location, built up its infrastructure, upgraded its manpower and

trained its people to meet the needs of international trade, industry and services. To compete and survive with no natural resources, Singaporeans became better trained, better educated, better organised and equipped with better infrastructure. They made sure they remained better at doing things than their neighbours whilst using the same machines and similar infrastructure.

Singapore always opted and streamlined its policies and approach to remain among the top most successful three countries in the Asia Pacific region. It took strong measures to make sure its tiger economy endures.

The government of Singapore has invested heavily in education, training and scholarships, benefiting people greatly. These people have been told that they have a special obligation and duty towards society. It was the better educated who were given the opportunity to move the country forward with great commitment to society. This was especially relevant for those in charge of government, professions or business. They were driven to place the interests of society above their own, ensuring the well-being of the society as a whole.

There was no room for anyone profiting from his/her public appointment. Clean and corruption-free government is Singapore's most precious political and economic asset. For this reason it was recognised that ministers who deal with millions, if not billions, of dollars should not be paid low salaries since low salaries are not attractive to able men who can be successful in their professions or business while they tend to draw hypocrites who sweet talk their way into power in the name of public service. It

was also becoming increasingly impractical to depend solely on the spirit of serving the nation to get good and able people to serve in government. Singapore believed that high performance in any organisation, but in government in particular, depends on top-class leaders.

Top professionals are in short supply. Their skills are in demand by many firms around the world, with high pay prospects. Conversely, at the bottom end, the market is flooded. It was men and women from the top professional group that Singapore needed in government and took steps to draw into its ranks.

Thus, Singapore came up with a brilliant formula to encourage good and able men and women to join the public service without sacrificing their financial livelihood under a corrupt-free environment. Ministers' salaries, together with those of judges and civil servants, became pegged to the salaries in the private sector instead of being fixed. Under this system, these people are paid two-thirds of the salaries of the private sector top executives, according to income tax returns, with a two-year time lag. This was even accepted by the citizenry at large as a viable

## Israeli demands to Arafat need to be realistic

By Carmi Gillon

TEL AVIV — As an Israeli intelligence officer, I used to keep photographs in my office of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials who were the enemies of my people. Later, when I ran Israel's internal security service, the Shin Bet, I worked closely with those same Palestinians to thwart our common enemy: Islamic fundamentalist terrorists.

After the Oslo accords that Israel and the Palestinians signed in 1993, Israeli security officers initially found it difficult to turn over sensitive information about terrorist plots or arms caches to our long-time foes. And the Palestinians had a hard time arresting and interrogating their neighbours because it made them appear to be collaborators.

But both sides swallowed their distaste because cooperating was the only answer to terror. Eventually we even ran joint operations — including one that led to an arrest for the bus bombings in Jerusalem in early 1996.

Now the mistrust is so deep that an American intelligence agent is needed to funnel information between the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israeli officials about the latest suicide bombing in a Jerusalem market last month.

In this atmosphere, relying solely on humiliating and bullying Yasser Arafat is not the way to get him to crack down

on terrorists and restore cooperation with Israeli intelligence. Some pressure on Mr. Arafat is necessary. But it does not serve Israel's interests to make him seem like a weak capitulator to Israeli demands or to create so much popular Palestinian resentment that it strengthens the hand of Hamas.

That is why it is counterproductive to withhold tax revenues from the PNA, for example. That money pays the salaries of the Palestinian security officers whom the Israelis need to track down and stop terrorists.

When Israeli and Palestinian

as a bargaining chip with the current Israeli government. He must be shown that this is unacceptable. So it made sense for the U.S. envoy, Dennis Ross, to focus mainly during his recent visit to the region on pressing Mr. Arafat to take strong action against terrorism.

Peace talks should not be restarted before Mr. Arafat makes a solid effort to arrest terrorists and destroy the network that supports them. Yet the demands made of him must be realistic.

I wish he could confiscate all illegal weapons, clamp down on all anti-Israeli rhetoric and meet other demands of hard-

strate that some benefits will accrue to those who are not in the camp of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The only benefits he can offer are economic progress and a peace process that is not continuously sidetracked.

Before the Oslo accords, when Israel relied heavily on an often unreliable network of Palestinian informers, we could not do much to uproot the Hamas terrorist infrastructure. Suicidal young men with access to sophisticated weaponry are extremely difficult to stop. Mr. Arafat can do a better job against them, if only because, as Yitzhak Rabin used to say, he doesn't have a Supreme Court or many civil libertarians to worry about.

Just after some of the worst terrorist outrages in 1996, when Israel responded by refusing to let in Palestinian workers, I sat together with Palestinian intelligence officers to plan strategies to find the perpetrators and prevent further attacks. That work required mutual trust. It will be virtually impossible to do such work again if the political impasse continues.

That is yet another reason why it is imperative for the United States to step in as quickly as possible to get peace talks back on track.

The writer is director of Israel's secret service from 1994 to 1996. This article is reprinted from The New York Times.

## LETTERS

## Love and sympathy

To the Editor:

THIS LETTER is on behalf of more than 300 inhabitants of Ostend who are all good friends of the Royal Jordanian Falcons and who wish to extend their sympathy to the team and Jordanian people for the loss of one of their friends.

Now that the first impact of the shock is over after this terrible tragedy, we would like to put the following into words: First and foremost, we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the wife, the family, the team and the many friends of Omar Bilal. This is a great loss for all of you, but also for everyone in Ostend who had the pleasure of being Omar's friend. He was an appealing fellow who was much loved and appreciated. We will miss our valuable friend dearly.

We also wish to thank Her Majesty Queen Noor and Princess Iman for their much esteemed visit to Ostend. It was regarded as the highest token of respect for the victims and their families.

Tragedies, it seems, bring real friends even closer together.

Indeed, for many of us, the Falcons have always been the favourite team. Not only because of their skill but also due to the style and flair with which they sought contact with the people of Ostend. Real class! The dignity with which the team represented their country during the remembrance service on the day following the accident demonstrated real courage and respect.

This is how we have always known the Royal Jordanian Falcons. A group of charismatic and friendly gentlemen, loyal to their King and always ready to do the utmost in promoting their country. In the most charming way possible they persuaded us to get to know more about Jordan and its people. First impressions are important and in a very short time they managed to rid us of all the prejudices which so many Western people are known to have. They taught us the true character of the Arab people on the whole and in particular that of the Jordanians: a tolerant people, extremely kind and hospitable. Thanks to the RJF many of us had the honour and the good fortune to visit Jordan which is something we will continue to do in the future.

Dear Jordanians, the purpose of this letter is to show you that friends in Ostend appreciate and support the RJF team more than ever. An unfortunate tragedy is not going to change this. The demise of Omar should be the beginning of a more solid bond between the inhabitants of Jordan and Ostend. What was started by the RJF must be built upon. For our part, Jordan will be promoted further in the same manner that the RJF always did. The foundation in Ostend of the "friend's circle El Oudon" is meant as a greeting of honour to our great friends.

Dear RJF, we sincerely hope we can welcome you in Ostend next summer. We miss you dearly and wish all Jordanians a wonderful future.

You are always welcome.

Jan Vergaerde,  
Leopold II laan 11,  
B-8400 Oostende,  
Belgium.



## Society on the Move

### Reviewing, reevaluating and re-routing spell change

The mandate of the new Securities Commission is a hefty one. Hand-picked by the Council of Ministers to carry out the mission are five commissioners chaired by Michel Mairio, who leaves his position as deputy governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, for the new full-time task. Dr. Mairio obtained his Masters and Ph.D. degrees in economics from the University of Southern California in 1970. He served as chairman of the board of the Industrial Development Bank and the Jordan Mortgage Refinance Company. He has been deputy governor of the CBJ since 1989. Dr. Mairio has represented Jordan on bilateral and multilateral committees within the framework of the Arab-Israeli peace talks. He was also Jordan's debt negotiator for the London Club (1989-93) and the Paris Club (1989-97) as well as the bilateral negotiations of creditor countries of the Paris Club. As a member of the negotiating team with the International Monetary Fund, Dr. Mairio has played a critical role in helping Jordan achieve monetary stability and economic reform. Along with him on the team of commissioners are: Deputy Chairman Hisham Tel, a former minister of justice and of state for prime ministry affairs; Dr. Taysseer Abdel Jabbar, former minister of labour and former under secretary general at the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and most recently director of the Arab Consulting Centre; Dr. Maher Waked, assistant general manager of the Bank of Jordan; and Abdul Hamid Hiyari, director general of the General Supplies Department where he was in charge of the Central Tenders Committee. This commission is designed to provide the enabling environment to achieve sound dealings in securities through the regulation, development and monitoring of securities and capital markets in Kingdom. It is responsible for protecting securities holders, investors and the public from fraud and deception. The commission, thus is charged with regulating and monitoring the issuance of and dealings in securities as well as the entities that fall under its supervision. It will also be responsible for regulating the disclosure of information concerning securities, issuers, insider trading, major holders and investors. With the swearing in of the commissioners, the Amman Financial Market, as we know it, will no longer exist, and therefore AFM General Manager Wahib Shair will step down. Having been party to the finalising of the 1997 Securities Law, which created the commission, the bourse and the depository, Mr. Shair, who has headed the AFM for nearly the last 11 months (since the former general manager Ummayya Tawkan left to become ambassador to Brussels) says he will take his time in evaluating his future options. Previously, he ran his own auditing firm. As for the more than 100 employees of the AFM, they are expected to be employed by the new Securities Commission.

**ARRANGING TIES:** Turning to diplomatic missions, a Royal Decree was issued last week to establish ties at the ambassadorial level with the Republic of Moldova. Another decree approved the transfer of Ambassadors Saleh Kabari from Ankara and Fakhri Abu Taleb from Beirut to home base. Still two more decrees approved the appointment of Othman Medhat Uzbek as Jordan's honorary consul in Istanbul and Mung-Bon Shing as Jordan's honorary consul in Seoul.

**ENVOY EN ROUTE:** Although Jordan has no embassy in Seoul, South Korea has for several years maintained a full diplomatic mission in Amman. In fact it is presently undergoing a change of ambassadors. South Korean Ambassador to Jordan Oh Jung-II left Amman for Seoul on Sunday ending his three-and-a-half year tenure in the Kingdom. Mr. Oh will be posted at the republic's foreign ministry. Expected to arrive in Jordan shortly to succeed Mr. Oh is first-time ambassador, Lee Kyung-Woo. At 50 Mr. Lee, a graduate of the College of Law of Seoul National University, is a career diplomat who has served in Paris, Dakar, Chicago, Port Luis and London. From May 1993 to August 1996 he was protocol secretary to President Kim Young-Sam. His appointment prior to being named ambassador to Jordan was as director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Middle East and African Affairs Bureau. Mr. Lee is married and has two daughters.

**BIENVENIDO:** Visiting Amman since Sunday and leaving today is Gustavo de Aristegui, now director general of the cabinet of the Ministry of Interior of Spain. Here at the

invitation of Minister of Tourism Akel Biltaji, the young career diplomat wasted little time in touching base with nearly all the powers that be in his former base. Mr. Aristegui was deputy head of mission of the Spanish embassy in Amman from 1993-1996 when he was appointed to his new position in the first Council of Ministers of the new Spanish government of José Maria Aznar. He was in Jordan to discuss tourism security, cooperation in the general field of security, looking beyond traditional methods of fighting crime, and to keep in touch with Jordanian politics as a key player in the region.

**KEEPING THE LINK:** Deciding on a major career move herself is Dorri Alopaeus-Stahl. The area manager of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is returning to the Swedish foreign service. After two years with UNICEF in Amman, Mrs. Alopaeus-Stahl will keep links with the U.N. by becoming the permanent representative of Sweden to the Rome-based United Nations organization. Her office will be in the Swedish embassy and she will be in charge of dealing with the Rome-headquartered agencies of the U.N., i.e. the Food and Agriculture Organisation, World Food Programme and International Fund for Agricultural Development. Prior to her UNICEF appointment Mrs. Alopaeus-Stahl was counsellor for multilateral affairs at the Swedish embassy in Nairobi and was deputy permanent representative of Sweden to the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) and HABITAT. Her husband, Michael, a political scientist, has been in Sweden heading a small college in development research studies. His research liberties will allow him to commute monthly to Rome. Mrs. Alopaeus-Stahl, meanwhile, awaits the arrival in Jordan of the UNICEF Executive Secretary Carol Bellamy. After the visit in early October, she will leave for Italy.

**DRAW DOWNS:** On the subject of changes at UNICEF, the restructuring programme of the United Nations, U.N. sources have told us, may very well lead to about 950 positions of the agency's 7,000 posts worldwide being cut. But U.N. officials are telling their staff the programme calls for replacing the scotched posts with approximately 500 new positions. What that boils down to is more responsibilities and duties for those who continue in the U.N. system. Here in Jordan, it is expected that nine UNICEF positions will be cut and replaced by four new posts.

**RE-ROUTING:** Royal Jordanian, itself, is undergoing major self-evaluations and thus restructuring. In that vein the airline reports several principal staff changes. At the top is the resignation of Vice President of Finance Ghassan Ali. This 27-year veteran of the national airline has been offered an attractive job which will take him to Riyadh to work for Saudi Arabia's Prince Khaled Bin Sultan. Details of the position were not revealed. The decision to merge RJ's two affiliate airlines, the new Royal Wings regional carrier with the older charter service of Arab Wings, required only one general manager. The man selected was Royal Wings General Manager Ahd Qutair, which thus brought former Arab Wings Manager Ramzi Shwayhat to the Commercial Department. Another resignation at RJ Head Office was that of Assistant Vice President of Information Technology Mohammed Abdul Sattar. With about 15 years of RJ service behind him, Mr. Sattar has various opportunities ahead. Two executives to return from North America are Area Manager Chicago Michel Boulous and Regional Director Canada Ihsan Naghway. Mr. Boulous, who was honoured by Illinois Governor Jim Edgar for his efforts to bring RJ recognition in the Midwest as well as his endeavours to promote Arab culture in that region, has been assigned to the Finance Department, and Mr. Naghway is assigned to the Head Office. RJ operations in Canada — Montreal and Toronto — proved to be unprofitable and are expected to be halted soon.

**TRY-OUT:** A former UNICEF staff member, Tiwa Hazou, is heading down under with his wife Virginia and youngest son Rami. Since last year when he left his UNICEF post, then titled chief of external relations, Mr. Hazou has been free-lance consulting for various agencies in Amman. The Hazous are going to Auckland where Mr. Hazou will explore prospects of setting up a consultancy for business

and political expertise on the Middle East. Virginia, who will be back in her native land, will probably return to nursing. The couple's two older sons Taymoor and Rand are completing university studies in Australia. Mr. Hazou says the move is an experiment, and among his other ideas he is looking into opening an Arabic coffee shop, replete with argileh and perhaps some artefacts. Market research studies indicate the concept has promise. The Toumas plan to leave Jordan at the end of September. Meanwhile, the post left vacant by Mr. Hazou at UNICEF remains so. The title has changed to chief of the communications section, but for the past 10 months principals have not found any of the short-listed applicants sufficiently qualified to take on the demanding position.

**TAKING THE STAND:** In his first high-profile appearance since taking the reins as director general of the Jordan Estates Corporation, Amer Majali last week addressed a meeting of Arab pharmaceutical industry representatives. Naturally he highlighted the role of the Sahab Industrial City, which he said provides full facilities to some of Jordan's drug-manufacturing firms. He noted that there are 22 industries engaged in the manufacture of medicines (including veterinary and hygienic products) at Jordan's industrial estates. He said the total investment of these firms alone is JD 50 million. Mr. Majali, who was in the private contracting sector before accepting his new post, stressed that these firms are characterised by high quality and apply international standards to their products, thus enabling them to compete in the international market.

**MAKING THE GRADE:** At the Royal Court, Director of Information and Public Relations Ali Faza'a has been promoted. A Royal Decree issued last week raises his official rank from special grade to higher grade. Mr. Faza'a has been at the Royal Court for five years, four of them in his present post. He obtained his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Arabic literature and in modern literary criticism from the University of Jordan. Prior to joining the Royal Court he was first a writer and producer of news programmes at Jordan Radio then was put in charge of the station's cultural programmes. He has published four books of poetry and one on literary criticism. He is the recipient of the State Award for Literature.

**TESTING THE WATERS:** Ramadan Rawashdeh is one ambitious journalist. As a reporter with Al Rai' he writes on various political issues. As a novelist, his book, *Al Hamrawi*, won him the 1994 Najib Majouz Prize for Best Writer in the Arab World. Now he is exploring with family, friends and other supporters his chances at a shot for a seat in parliament for the Shobak, Ma'an, Wadi Mousa district. That district has 3 Muslim seats. Mr. Rawashdeh, who is 34, married and has a son and daughter, will decide over the next few weeks whether he will join the campaign wagon or stick to words on paper.

**IT WAS A FARE MATTER:** Airfare competitiveness brought El Al, the Israeli airlines, its largest ever tour group of Jordanian passengers this month. The group of 100 flew to Paris on El Al from Amman via Tel Aviv. Sources tell us that some travellers are finding the low fares offered by El Al outweigh other inconveniences such as the arduous security checks.

**CHURCH BELLS:** Exchanging wedding vows on Saturday will be Mouna Jumean and Stephen Brannon. Ms. Jumean, the daughter of Heyam and the late Col. Emile Jumean, and a graduate of Kansas State University, has been financial and administrative officer of the Regional Centre on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East for the past three years. Mr. Brannon, the son of Marshall and Ann Brannon of the U.S. state of Virginia, graduated with a Masters in Arab studies from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He has been working for the International Press Office of the Royal Court for three years. The couple plan to spend another year in Jordan and then chart their way to the U.S. in search of new horizons.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## Striking a balance in women's studies

**Arab Women: Between Defiance and Restraint**  
Edited by Suha Sabbagh  
New York, Olive Branch Press — Interlink Publishing Group, 1996, 267 pages, \$18.95

**ARAB WOMEN:** Between Defiance and Restraint is both a contribution to women's studies and a critique of Western stereotypes which portray Arab women solely as victims of Arab men's backwardness. As Suha Sabbagh writes in the introduction, "This analysis suffers from the naïveté of perceiving another culture through the prism of Western consciousness." It focuses only on "hot spots," such as the harem, honour killings, female circumcision and veiling. Ultimately, this is linked to the power struggle between the West and the Arab World: Arab women are used "as a stick with which to beat the Arab World... (which is) dehumanising first and foremost to the women of the Arab World. Such an attitude cannot be mistaken for feminism... it is a degradation of this term."

Most of the 32 articles in the book are written by Arab female academics, residing in the U.S. or Arab countries. They set out to reverse prevalent stereotypes by examining women's conditions in the context of an objective appraisal of Arab society, in order to reveal their hidden strengths, and the problems that truly concern them: Education, work, personal rights, etc. In order to accomplish this, the authors must strike a delicate balance as indicated by the title: Between Defiance and Restraint. They must present the objective socioeconomic and cultural reasons for the customs and structures which constrain women, without becoming apologists for the denial of women's rights.

Sabbagh achieves this balance when explaining why few Arab women openly challenge the extended family despite the restrictions this patriarchal social unit imposes on them: "Worn down and ill-equipped to deal with women's growing needs, the extended family nevertheless remains the best insurance system around."

However, Sabbagh goes too far in her quest to refute Western stereotypes when she writes: "There are no statistics about how many honour killings occur in the Arab World because they are an aberration, occurring far less often than random murders in (the U.S.)." Of course, almost anything is an aberration when compared with U.S. crime rates, but it is foolish to say this is the reason no statistics are kept on honour killings. Besides, such statistics do exist. Jordan is a case in point. Rana Hussein's investigative reporting for the Jordan Times, based on police records, shows that over the last decade honour crimes ranked highest among all murders committed in the Kingdom. Thus, they are not an aberration in the Jordanian crime scale, and the police are concerned about them. Sabbagh would have done better to tackle this topic head-on and explain its social causes. Data is available, as seen in the 1996 statement of the Director of Jordan's Homicide Department, Mujib Fakhouri, that 85 per cent of crimes against women are committed by men who are unemployed.

Among the articles which most successfully balance between revealing women's oppression and strength are three by Bouthaina Sha'ban. In "The Status of Women in Syria," she reviews the effects of advances made in education and jobs on a broad range of women, from the "superwoman" who manages her profession and her home, to the battered wife. In "Arab Women and Literature," she shares her finding that the first Arab novel was written not by Hussayn Haykal (Zainab, 1914), but by a Lebanese woman, Afifa Karam, whose *Badia Wa Fouad* (1906) was published by Al Huda newspaper in New York. In "The Hidden History of Arab Feminism," she reminds us that "the Arab Women's League, with its clear pan-Arab vision, was formed in 1928, 17 years before the League of Arab States." Moreover, articles published in Cairo, Beirut and Damascus prior to 1915 "established an interesting link between the emergence of political movements for national independence and the awakening of a feminist consciousness in the Arab World, arguing that no country can be truly free so long as its women remain shackled (an important

connection that Arab women in the next generation failed to stress)."

The relationship between nationalism and feminism is also raised in the section on Palestine, where Suha Sabbagh and Eileen Kutab comment on the Declaration of Principles of Palestinian Women's Rights, which was adopted by a number of women's groups in the West Bank in conjunction with the PLO Women's Union in Tunis. The text of the document is included in the appendix of the book.

One of the most interesting essays is by Hala Maksoud. Based on the Lebanese experience, she challenges the theory that "all wars have hastened the emancipation of women, either because of women's active participation in combat or because women were propelled into the workforce to replace men." On the contrary, she contends that "as a result of the breakdown of the social order, people clung to family and tradition." Destruction of infrastructure increased women's chores. "Women, instead of being free to construct new roles, were in fact consumed with old traditional roles and domestic duties... even if some Lebanese women felt empowered as a result of their personal participation in the war, this has not translated into gains for women, because they were not organised as women around an agenda." All in all, they were sidetracked from work to develop their communities — "a precondition for improving the status of women."

The book also includes three contributions on Jordan by Alba Amawi: An interview with Leila Shanaf, a brief article on women's education and an analysis of women's rights to vote and inherit property in Islam.

Containing articles on Egypt, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Kuwait and Morocco as well, the book has a fairly broad scope. While only a few articles give in depth analysis, almost all are highly informative. The book enables us to take stock not only of women's situation, but also of the potentials and the weaknesses of Arab women's studies.

By Sally Bland



## Praise the government before it's too late!

WITH SENTIMENTS of pride, I hail the great achievement of our prime minister, Abdul Salam Majali, which would make the most sceptical of citizens an instant government admirer. Amidst a series of happenings (things that suddenly happen to people, including the Press and Publications Law and other temporary and permanent damage building measures, Majali suddenly broke the jinx by putting his foot down and deciding that Jordan will flip an hour back to winter time on the 19th of next month. Even though this is not a flip forward, in this case I decided not to have a thing to complain about.

On the contrary, if it wasn't for the socially regulated and controlled manhood in charge of my glands, I would have almost had a tear run down a cheek. I am very sentimental about this, not only because I feel that this is the greatest decision made by our prime minister, but because of the fact that I've had it with summer and if it wasn't for Majali's power over the seasons, we might have been stuck in sunning mode forever!

Yes, I've had it with all of those men and women, whose skin is dark enough by birth, getting even darker and the slap happy attitude that comes alongside vegetating in the sun only because it is a classy practice that ought to be done in good mood. What's wrong with gloomy days past and ahead?

I've had it with people driving convertibles and me trying to figure out the point. If an airhead is struck by the sun in summer only to get dizzier and gets showered with cold rain in the winter but never wakes up to smell the cake, when does the top come off?

I've had it with having to drink your choice of Pepsi or Coke just because you shouldn't get caught drinking hot tea. I've had it with getting hot and sweaty even without the presence of a female or without having been struck by a Stealth virus that turns your system runny. Most importantly, I've had it with the same sun looking down at you and saying: "Hey, I am the same sun that rises daily in the Bahamas, Caribbean and Hawaii. How come everyone is all covered up from head to toe?!!" It is about time for winter, and thank to none other but Majali!

To tell you the truth, my state of mind has nothing to do with the seasons, neither am I really looking forward to winter. It is the feeling that as seasons come and go, all we've become experts at is government bashing. Not that governments don't deserve it, but the fact is that once a new government comes, all stop bashing the old and start at the new, under a general feeling of great loss!

In other words, if you take how we bashed the heck out of Kabarti's government yet we are suffocated by nostalgia today, you may see the fear of the upcoming season of unknowns on our tanned faces! If we are going to cry over this government after we try out the next, shouldn't we have praised this government at least once during its lifetime?!! If not for credibility, why not for the heck of it?!

Planning ahead of time, I hereby praise the current government for the above and below:

- 1- This government's ability to deny. Cabinet members have shown a great ability to deny anything at anytime, and if challenged, they would deny their own positions!
- 2- This government's ability to declare. Cabinet members have been able to declare that they will fix this and that without having to say how.
- 3- This government's ability to ignore. Check out how many frustrated people are on Nets, or in the opposition.
- 4- This government's ability to flirt. Under the pretext of fixing relations with the brotherly or the cousinly, our government has been known to hold closed-door meetings with governments of the opposite sex — no incest intended.
- 5- This government's ability to track. Wherever the government walks, you see its footsteps for decades to come, even when its no longer around. Graffiti such as "Ensur was here," or "Tarawneh rules" can be seen on walls of various institutions beside ones that say "Obaidat is on top," "Thumbs up to Taher Masri" and "Bank on Kabarti."
- 6- This government's ability to fool: Also homous, baba ghanooj and falafel.

Keep this list, you may need to praise the next government pretty soon!

# Are there hackers in Jordan?

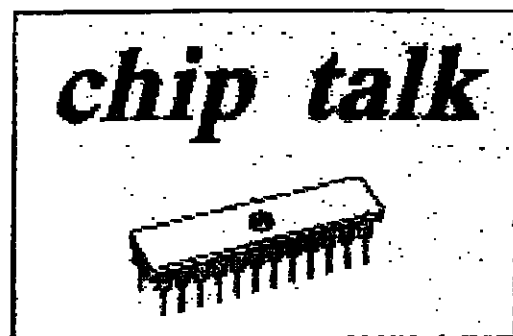
By Jean-Claude Elias

COMPUTER CRIMES got the attention of the media for the first time in the mid-eighties. There were curious stories of American teenagers tampering with the Pentagon's main frame and accessing top secret information. In other example, young hackers succeeded to beat bank's super-computers security systems and became rich by transferring to their own account, once every month, "only" a few cents from all other accounts in the bank. That is before being discovered and tried.

The exotic part of these events was due partly to their novelty and partly to the fact that there were then no clearly defined laws to sanction such unusual crimes. Things have changed since, at least in the United States and in Western Europe. Laws have been updated and the felony has lost its glitter. Statistics from the computer world however show that the rate of such crimes has neither risen nor fallen, though there is now more "variety" in the type of infractions committed.

As far as Jordan is concerned, the country so far has been virtually free of computer crime. Two factors certainly contribute to maintain a healthy situation, though the second of them may be changing. The first is a general climate of low crime rate. In spite of the reports that the media channel and that indicate that the said rate is increasing, Jordan remains a very safe place overall. Much safer than most other countries in the world. The second factor is a little more complex and deserves some explanation.

Accessing another computer to obtain protected information from it, to make unauthorised bank transfers or to plant viruses in its system cannot be done through magic, not even black magic! It requires the second computer (the victim) to be linked to the first (the attacker) either in a local network configuration or via modem to another, more global network, like the Internet, typically. Any PC not connected to another machine is absolutely safe.



Until 1996, most personal computers operated in Jordan were in a stand-alone (that is not connected to any type of network) configuration. And yet, people who were misinformed were afraid of attacks by other computers. With the widespread usage of electronic mail and the Internet, things are changing fast. Users of PCs are discovering the advantage to be connected. Indeed, several suppliers of computer hardware in Amman have confirmed that they are currently selling four times more modems than PCs. A clear indication that those who already had purchased a machine without modem are adding one to their system, in order to access other networks — again, mainly the Internet.

The question therefore is: "Will the almost systematic link to the Internet increase the rate of computer crimes in Jordan?" Nothing so far allows us to think so. The few thousands Internet users in the Kingdom have not reported any incidents. Even in case such problems do occur, this would not necessarily mean that they originated from the country.

It could be that the number of PCs in Jordan that are connected one way or another to networks is still very low and that no significant conclusion can be drawn at this stage. It could also be that the Kingdom is heaven-protected from computer crime. At the rate the number of subscribers to the Internet is growing, we will soon know.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, August 28, 1997

- 2:00 The Holy Koran
- 2:10 Cartoons
- 3:00 America's Funniest People
- 3:30 He Shoots He Scores
- 4:00 French Programmes
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 French Programme
- 7:30 News headlines
- 7:35 Trivial Pursuit
- 8:00 Cinema Cinema Cinema
- 8:30 Lois And Clark — Superman
- 9:10 Kung Fu — The Legend Continues
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:30 Movie
- 12:00 Step By Step

Friday, August 29, 1997

- 2:00 Holy Koran
- 2:05 Cartoons
- 3:00 French Programmes
- 4:00 Family Matters
- 4:30 NBA
- 6:10 French Film
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 French Programme
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Neighbours
- 8:00 The Health Show
- 8:30 Hawkeye
- 9:10 Drama Series
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:30 Mini Series
- 12:00 Movie

Saturday, August 30, 1997

- 2:00 Holy Koran
- 2:10 Twinkle
- 2:30 Wishbone
- 3:00 Blue Heelers
- 3:30 World Of Geo
- 4:30 The Valley Between
- 4:30 Tilt
- 5:00 French Programme
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Neighbours
- 8:00 Ties That Bind
- 8:30 Prism
- 9:10 Time Trax
- 10:00 News At Ten
- 10:30 Movie
- 12:00 Ellen

Sunday, August 31, 1997

- 2:00 Holy Koran
- 2:10 Cartoon
- 3:00 Energy Express
- 4:00 American Chart Show
- 6:00 French Programmes
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:30 News Headlines

- 7:35 Fresh Prince Of Belair
- 8:00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
- 8:30 National Geographic
- 9:10 Renegade
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:30 One West Waikiki
- 11:15 Sisters

Monday, September 1, 1997

- 2:00 Holy Koran
- 2:10 Cartoon
- 3:00 Gillette Sports Special
- 3:30 Deep Water Haven
- 4:00 Animal Show
- 4:30 Ocean Girl
- 5:15 French Programmes
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:15 French Programme
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Neighbours
- 8:00 Murphy Brown
- 8:30 Babylon 5
- 9:10 Highlander
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:35 Emergency Room (E.R.)
- 11:15 Homicide

Tuesday, September 2, 1997

- 2:00 Holy Koran
- 2:05 Square One TV
- 3:00 Dog House
- 3:35 French Programmes
- 4:00 Album Show
- 6:10 French Programmes
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Coach
- 8:00 Tilt 23.5
- 8:30 Encounter
- 9:10 Nature Of Things (Documentary)
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:30 West Beach
- 11:15 Miniseries

Wednesday, September 3, 1997

- 2:00 Holy Koran
- 2:10 Cartoons
- 3:00 Global Gardner
- 3:30 Spell Binder
- 4:00 Monsters Today
- 4:30 Border Town
- 5:00 French Programmes
- 7:00 Le Journal
- 7:30 News Headlines
- 7:35 Neighbours
- 8:00 Soldier's Diary
- 8:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
- 9:10 Spenser For Hire
- 10:00 News In English
- 10:30 Land's End
- 11:15 American Gothic

## Some things we need to know about

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

### Number one:

According to tests conducted to measure the protection cars give to occupants and pedestrians in the event of front and side-impact crashes, some of the cars we drive do not protect us from serious injury in road accidents as much as they are supposed to.

These same tests have shown that even some of the more expensive car brands did not offer greater protection from injury.

For example, when one brand of car was rammed from the side, the driver's door struck the placed dummy's chest before the side airbag had fully inflated.

Even though motor manufacturers and traders are arguing with consumer associations about these tests, we, the consumers, have the right to be informed of the truth about the safety aspects of the car we drive.

### Number two:

Of the new ideas that are being thought of to beat the menace of drunk-driving, devices that disable cars if the driver is over the alcohol limit are being considered in the fight against drinking and driving.

### Number three:

July 1, 1997 was the longest day of the year: Whereas every other day simply has 24 hours, it had a total of 24



hours and 1 second.

Due to the Earth's slowing rotation, this extra second was added so that satellite systems and high-speed data links would not find themselves out of step, depending on their time zone.

While the need for this extra leap second might not have been obvious with older timepieces, modern atomic caesium clocks are so accurate — to less than one second in 300,000 years — that they can detect the varying rotational speed of our planet, caused by the interaction of tidal friction from the gravitational pull of the sun and moon, and the fluid composition of the Earth's core.

### Number four:

This was the 21st leap second introduced since 1972.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Mohammad A. Shuqair

### BRUSH YOUR MEMORY

BELOW are forty different plants. Study them for three minutes and try to memorise as many as you can.

#### SCORE:

- 20-25 Fare
- 26-30 Good
- 31-36 Very Good
- 37-40 Excellent

- |                               |                     |                  |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Cabbage                    | 2. Radish           | 3. Parsnip       |
| 4. Cauliflower                | 5. Carrot           | 6. Leek          |
| 7. Peas                       | 8. Brussel sprouts  | 9. Asparagus     |
| 10. Broad beans               | 11. Sweet corn      | 12. Beet         |
| 13. Tomato                    | 14. Celery          | 15. Aubergine    |
| 16. Onion                     | 17. Lettuce         | 18. Pepper       |
| 19. Runner beans              | 20. Turnip          | 21. Swede        |
| 22. Potato                    | 23. Globe artichoke |                  |
| 24. Purple sprouting broccoli | 25. Lentil          |                  |
| 26. Chicory                   | 27. Marrow          | 28. Cassava      |
| 29. Parsley                   | 30. Courgette       | 31. Jew's mallow |
| 32. Cucumber                  | 33. Spinach         | 34. Mint         |
| 35. Water-cress               | 36. Okra            | 37. Garlic       |
| 38. Pumpkin                   | 39. Oat             | 40. Hemlock      |

### PUZZLES

(A) UNDERLINE THE ODD-ONE-OUT:

ANT SPIDER BEE MOTH MIDGE

\*\*\*

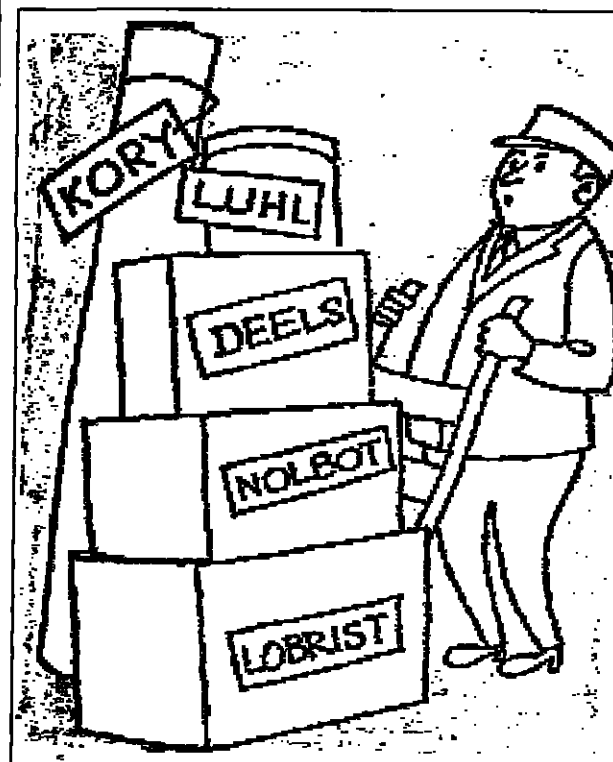
(B) INSERT A WORD WHICH MEANS THE SAME AS THE TWO WORDS OUTSIDE THE BRACKETS

disc (.....) achievement

\*\*\*

(B) HELP THE PORTER

CAN you unscramble the names to tell the porter where the parcels should go?



\*\*\*\*

### THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

— Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

I suppose it can be truthfully said that hope is the only universal liar who never loses his reputation for veracity.

— Robert G. Ingersoll, American lawyer, politician

(1833-1899)

If you can talk brilliantly about a problem, it can create the consoling illusion that it has been mastered.

— Stanley Kubrick, American movie director (1928-)

Know the true value of time — snatch, seize and enjoy every moment of it

— Lord Chesterfield, English statesman (1694-1773)

### JOKES

• SHE: "In so many a party, people mistake my daughter as me."

HE: "Is your daughter fifty years old?"

\*\*\*

• "This is A pretty dress. It must have cost you a lot."

"No, only five-minute crying."

\*\*\*

• "Salma gets a man's salary now."

"Does she work at government offices?"

"No, she's got married!!"

\*\*\*

• "What do you think of Fatma's fiance?"

"I don't know anything about him now, but his conduct was good when I was engaged to him."

\*\*\*\*

### LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

\*\* I hold him to be a fool.

Innani a'taqid annahu ghabiyy.

\*\* Hold your tongue!

Oskoti

\*\* He's in a hole.

Innahu fee ma'ziq.

\*\* You've passed with honours.

Laqad najahta betafawwoq.

\*\* Hold up your head, brother!

Irf'a' ra'saka ya akhi.

\*\* This is the eleventh hour for you.

Innaha akhira fursah laka.

\*\* I'm not in a hurry.

Lastu fee ajalaten min amri.

\*\* It's a stroke of luck.

Innaha darbatu huzz.

\*\* Congratulations!

Tahaneenal

\*\*\*\*

### HAPPY DREAMS

• BURGLAR. A dream of contrary. Burglars in your dream predict an increase in worldly goods, and if you caught them, it will probably be by way of an inheritance.

\*\*\*

• DARKNESS. Be prepared for a setback; however, if you managed to grope your way to the light, you will achieve great success. If you were walking in the dark, you will recover something you had given up for lost.

\*\*\*

• DOORBELL. A symbol of pleasant excitement. If you pushed it, you will soon have an interesting new friend; if you heard it ringing, you can expect to have an opportunity to engage in a happy new activity.

\*\*\*

• GIRAFFE. This long-necked creature in your dream is warning you not to meddle in other people's affairs.

ts & C  
allone  
Teen mo  
Symbolic  
By Liz Clark



## Stallone softens action-hero image, talks of past mistakes

By Bob Thomas  
The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, California — It wasn't the usual Sylvester Stallone interview. He seemed subdued, even somber, and more self-revealing than usual.

Yet the apparent reason for his mood wasn't disclosed until four days later: Stallone's wife, model Jennifer Flavin, whom he married in London on May 17, had just suffered a miscarriage. The couple has a year-old daughter, Sophia Rose, who underwent successful surgery for a hole in her heart last November.

Though more serious than usual, Stallone spoke in an upbeat way about his life at

midcentury (he turned 51 on July 6).

"I have a woman that I'm fully in love with, a daughter that I'm obsessed with; I feel healthy. I like the fact that I had the opportunity to work with world-class actors. ... I'm a very, very lucky guy."

He was referring to his new film, *Cop Land*, in which he appears with Robert De Niro, Harvey Keitel and Ray Liotta.

Although Stallone has been a top star since *Rocky* in 1976, the path has been anything but smooth. His first two marriages ended in divorce, and he has often been a target of the tabloids.

"There were a lot of mistakes, a lot of abuses, a lot of vanity and egocentric behav-

iour that somehow spoil the good times, spoil your reputation, spoil your responsibility," he said.

"Whether you like it or not, you have a responsibility, once you reach a certain level, to conduct yourself as a positive force. When you're depicted as a man who's thought of in one way, and you live a life of reckless abandon and utter excess in every area, what's the message?"

"Once you get to the top, abuse it, take advantage and have no responsibility and live for the moment and to hell with the future — that part I wouldn't enjoy."

"Anyway, it's a lesson well learned. I'm not happy to say I lived through it. But I'm happy I survived it."

Stallone attributed his adult troubles to his early life. He grew up in New York's supertough Hell's Kitchen, spending much of the time in foster homes since his parents could barely support themselves. They divorced when the boy was 11.

Mrs. Stallone moved on to Silver Springs, Maryland, then to the low-rent area of Philadelphia, and Sylvester was often farmed out to other families. He later claimed to have been expelled from 14 schools in 11 years. He spent two years at the American College in Switzerland and two at the University of Miami, where he studied acting.

"I came from a rather tumultuous background," he said. "I had a fantastic mother who was never given the opportunity she wanted; she had to take care of the house."

"I never really developed any foundation where I knew how to conduct myself. Now I have learned the importance of stability. That was a long lesson. A long lesson."

Stallone talked enthusiastically about *Cop Land*. "It's the most gratifying thing, regardless of how it turns

out, to go back to the school of ensemble acting that I hadn't seen since *The Lords of Flatbush* (his first important role, 1974). Everyone was part of the whole. And to be surrounded by all these actors that basically I started out with."

The other three principals — De Niro, Keitel, Liotta — came from the Martin Scorsese school of acting. Action-star Stallone had never before appeared with any of them.

"It made me nervous — as well as made me listen more," he admitted. "Old dog, new tricks."

Amazingly, *Cop Land* was reportedly made for \$20 million, which is normally what Stallone alone gets for a picture. How so? He and the other stars worked for minimum scale on this one, gambling on pieces of the profits.

"I was attracted by the quality of the writing by James Mangold (who also directed)," said Stallone. "I don't think that I was extraordinary. None of these actors would have done it if they thought they were just being used."

You would expect a star's agent to squawk about such a deal. But Stallone credits his then-agent, Arnold Rifkin of William Morris, for the idea.

"It was a very bold, audacious move for him to go completely against type, against the tides, and against tremendous criticism from various parties with whom I had outstanding deals," said the actor.

What's in it for Sly?

"I've been basically in a holding pattern," he reflected. "The action films have been very good to me, they've provided a lot of entertainment. They also provide a lack of challenge in certain areas."

"Physically they're challenging. But emotionally — they tend to leave that way in the background. Maybe



Actor Sylvester Stallone and his wife Jennifer Flavin greet fans in Florida last month (Reuters photo)

there's not enough room. I think there is, but quite often there isn't."

"It gets to the point where you say, 'if it's still about the money, then you're not really an actor, you're a businessman. When is there enough money to answer the questions or the secrets you have about yourself? Do you really have the sensitivity or the ability or even the ambition that you think you have?'"

"It's one thing to sit there and talk about all the great roles that got away. It's another to take the challenge."

The right time seemed to be indicated by the omens: The birth of his daughter and the miraculous operation; his engagement to Jennifer

Flavin; the 20th anniversary of *Rocky*. He was ready to take "the road less travelled."

Moviemakers will be seeing a different Sly in *Cop Land*. As Freddy Heflin, the sheriff of a New Jersey village where New York cops live with their families and plot crooked and murderous deeds, he is Paunchy, deaf in one ear and disheartened by his humdrum job. He gets pushed around by the rogue cops — until the final battle.

"To give credence to this character, there's no way I could repeat any of the old habits and make it work," said the actor, who gained 18 kilos of flab for the role. "I couldn't still go to the gym and be conscious of what I looked like. Am I

making a physical impression? "I had to get away from the stereotype that I had become accustomed to."

Throughout the years of *Rocky* and *Rambo*, Stallone's fortunes soared, making him the highest-paid star in films. But his last three movies — *Judge Dredd*, *Assassins*, *Daylight* — have failed to earn more than \$35 million apiece domestically.

Yet producers still seem willing to pay his \$20 million fee. The reason: He remains a top draw in the world market.

"Thank heavens," he remarked. "That has been a lifesaver for me — also a source of confusion. ... I think that in America so much has to do with timing, releasing a picture at the

right time and selling it well in advance."

"That's not so important abroad. If the audience likes a person, they'll go to see him because they can't spend that kind of money (on someone they don't know)."

Action fans needn't worry that Stallone is abandoning them. He has several action movies in the works, including maybe another *Rambo* role.

"In any future adventure films, I'm going to try to be diligent and bring more drama into it and still have the action," he said. "David Lean (*Lawrence of Arabia*) did it many times. He had a story that you could almost recall frame by frame 30 years later."

## Teen models crowd the catwalks in glamour-hungry Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (AFP) — In her short white dress and waist-hugging jacket, 11-year-old Ada glides down the catwalk at the Radnik Cinema in Sarajevo like the real professional she craves to be one day.

"I have just signed a four-year contract with my agency and I hope to be a top model when I'm a bit older," she told AFP, as her father looked on dotingly.

Ask any girl nowadays in Sarajevo what she hopes to do and the chances are she will say modelling. Fashion and beauty care are fast-

growing sectors in this war-torn city where the people are hungry for glamour and a taste of "la dolce vita" after years of bloodshed and hardship.

Ada who is 1.60 metres in height with wide dark eyes and Slavic features, said she had been recruited by Samosa, the biggest modelling agency in the city.

Four agencies closed during the war, recently reopened and in line with trends in the United States and Western Europe, where 14-year-old "Lolitas" grace the covers of top-notch

fashion magazines, they are increasingly recruiting very young girls.

Parents are only too willing to go along when girls are paid \$30 for one fashion parade in a country where the average monthly wage is only \$50.

The cinema where Ada and a score of other hopefuls waited to take their turns on the catwalk, was given world prominence by the Miss Sarajevo film clip made by the Irish group U2 during the siege of the city. The clip showed the girls holding a banner on which

was written "don't let them kill us."

But though Sarajevo is slightly off the beaten track as far as the fashion circuit is concerned, the selection criteria of Sarajevo modelling agencies are as tough as any at the top U.S. and European agencies.

"We use a selection process in several stages with a jury. What matters above all is their talent and personality," said Mirjana Keac, manager of Samosa and a former model herself.

She said "several European agencies are

interested in six of our youngest models." Most of Samosa's models are less than 15 years old. The "oldest" is 23.

Samosa's office on the first floor of a shrapnel-pocked building in the city centre, was piled with files containing hundreds of amateur photographs which serve as the model's "book."

The future of these young models is tied up closely with that of the fashion and cosmetics industries.

But the largest factories in these sectors, which were

shelled during the war, have not yet returned to full production due to lack of cash.

For this reason, most fashion parades are now held as part of trade fairs or other crowd events and are a far cry from the exclusive shows of the international couture establishment.

As a concession to moralists, the girls' contracts contain clauses obliging them to "get good marks at school" or "be careful whom they befriend" and strictly ban them from consuming drugs, cigarettes or alcohol.

Beauty and fashion are hot news all over Bosnia and the pages of the popular press are full of beauty contests and photos of young girls competing for titles like the country's "loveliest face" or such like.

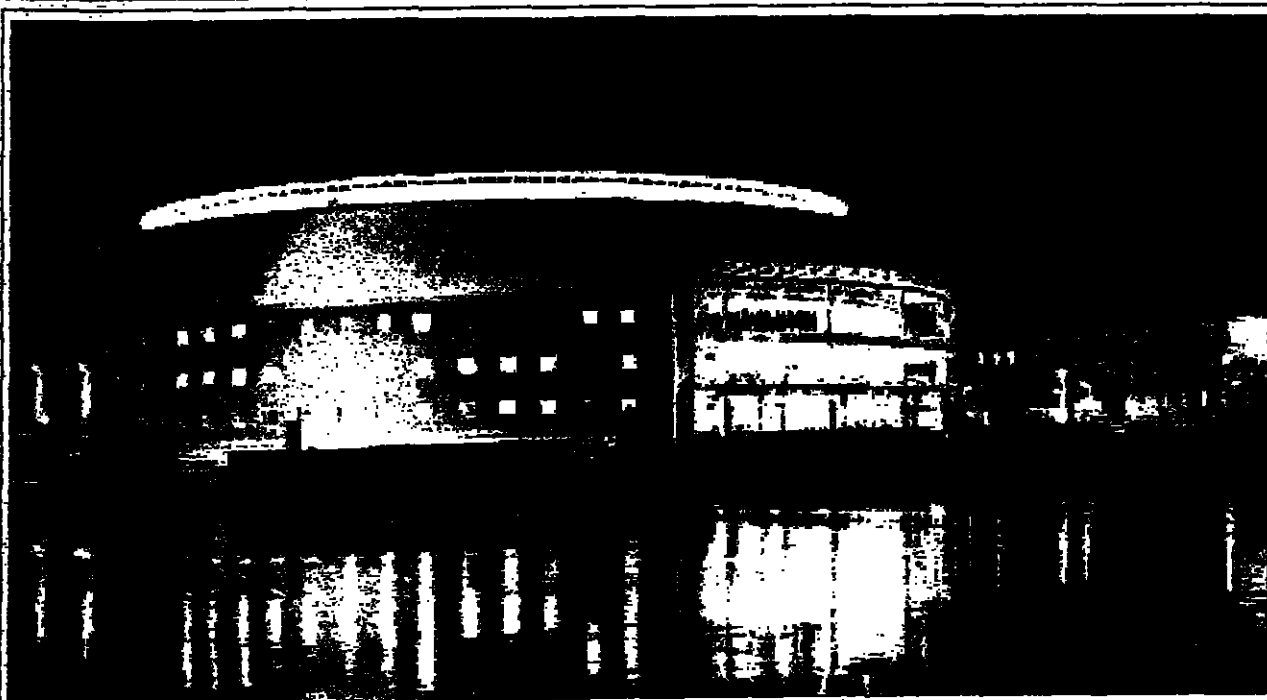
There is not yet any truly Bosnian fashion magazine but newspapers make up for this by using foreign fashion articles.

Selma, 17 her long legs sheathed in vivid yellow trousers, said her dream was to model for the big couture houses. "I hope that one day all my efforts will

be rewarded and I will be able to work in Paris," she said.

Selma recently showed off a collection of underwear in one of the city's red and yellow-painted trams. Her performance drew the wrath of the guardians of Islamic morals in this city where some women have taken to wearing the Iranian-style chador.

"You have to keep on fighting against narrow-mindedness," she complained.



## 'Symbolic' new Belfast concert hall

By Liz Clark

THIS NEW concert hall and conference centre in Belfast, opened on May 6 by the Prince of Wales, has been hailed as a symbol of the regeneration of Northern Ireland.

The domed £32 million Belfast Waterfront Hall is the flagship building in a vast development project on the edge of the River Lagan, in the heart of the city centre.

The Laganbank development has already attracted more than £80 million worth of investment from private and public sectors, including BT Northern Ireland, and the Hilton Hotel Group, which is to build a 187-bedroom hotel adjacent to the Belfast Waterfront Hall.

The hall's unique design encompasses a main auditorium that will seat up to 2,235 people on three levels. Features include: simultaneous interpretation facilities, comprehensive state-of-the-art sound and lighting systems, and purpose-built projection, broadcasting and recording rooms. A smaller hall can accommodate up to 500 people, and

there are 17 rooms for meetings of up to 120 people.

Interest in the hall as a conference and exhibition venue has been shown by companies and associations all over the world.

Built of Portland stone and traditional Belfast brick, and featuring extensive glazing, the Waterfront Hall has been designed to be used for business and leisure, to comfortably accommodate conference delegates and theatre-goers alike.

For example, the ground floor seating is supported on air-cushioned wagons which can be removed or repositioned if required, and the central floor is supported by hydraulic jacks which can raise the floor to various levels, to extend the stage, provide an orchestra pit, or make more exhibition space.

Extensive facilities for people with disability include access to all levels to the main foyer areas, cafeteria, bars, stages and auditoria, and infrared transmission systems for the hard of hearing — London Press Service.

## Gregory Peck says cinema being destroyed as an art form

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — Veteran Hollywood actor Gregory Peck has said that large corporations were destroying the cinema as an art form.

"The technology is terrific and the effects are terrific, but there's something missing in the human element — I think it's rather tiresome," he said.

Peck, one of the few remaining stars from Hollywood's golden era, is in Australia to film a cameo role for a television mini-series of the classic film he starred in, *Moby Dick*.

He was contemptuous of what he called "formula films" of the modern Hollywood and said the success of recent off-beat and low budget Australian films, such as *Shine*, were proof "formula films" weren't necessarily the best. "It's been discovered a certain kind of film can be exported worldwide and can bring in enormous amounts of money," he said.

"When you have a giant conglomerate behind a movie, the fellows at the top are not really terribly concerned about the artis-

tic element, they're concerned about the bottom line."

"It's commerce for them ... gratuitous violence just for the sake of titillating an audience — I don't approve of it at all."

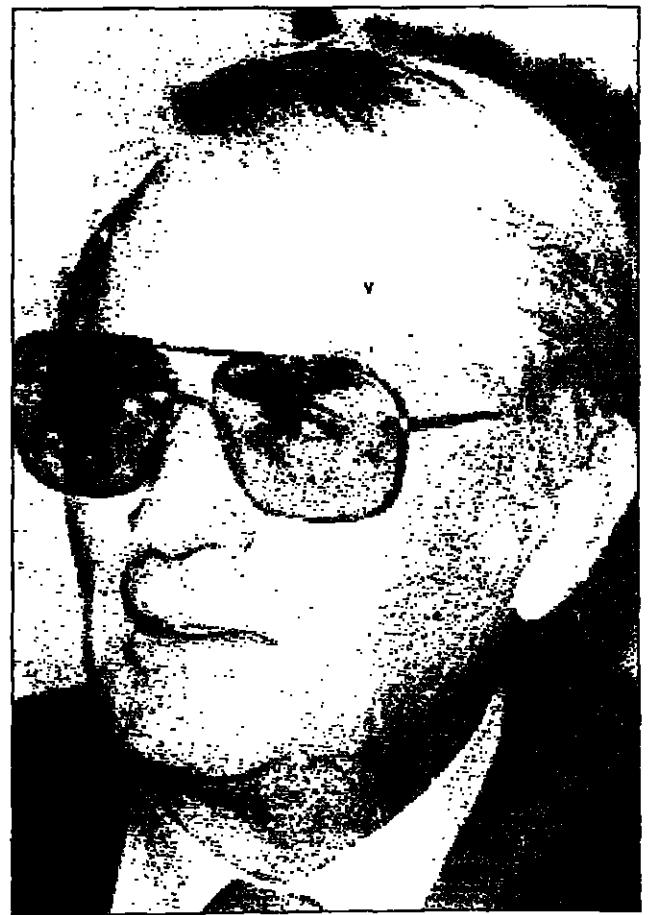
Naming the Australian hit film *Babe* as the last movie he'd seen that sent him out of a cinema happy, Peck said other Aussie films like *Muriel's Wedding*, *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert*, *Breaker Morant* and *Dead Calm* were proving movies did not need to fit the corporate formula to be successful.

"You make a contact — there is a human relationship between you and the filmmaker ... you walk out feeling you've had an experience."

"(The film *Babe*) defines the word charm; absolutely charming and amusing despite the fact that the leading character was a pig."

Peck appeared to still be in mourning for the recent deaths of his friends and colleagues James Stewart and Robert Mitchum.

"You manage to hang on to your equanimity when these fellows shuffle off,"



Gregory Peck

he said. "Those were Cary Grant's words: 'When my daughter has a child and I

have a grandchild I will be ready to shuffle off' ... and he shuffled off at the age of 84."



# Chinese pay high price for tobacco revenue

By Benjamin Kang Lim  
Reuters

BEIJING — Wang Jie puffed one pack of cheap, unfiltered Chinese cigarettes a day for 30 years. She will likely soon be a statistic — one of the hundreds of thousands who die each year in China from smoking-related diseases.

The 65-year-old retired aluminium plant worker is being treated for lung cancer at the Beijing Chaoyang Hospital but does not even know. She lies in a ward for people with respiratory problems because her family doesn't dare to tell her that she has cancer.

Wang is almost certain to become one of the 500,000 people who die each year in China from tobacco-related illnesses.

Her medical treatment will cost the state tens of thousands of yuan (thousands of U.S. dollars) — several times her contribution to China's state tobacco monopoly.

She is one of China's 300 million smokers who have made the country's billion-dollar tobacco industry into the largest single source of state revenue for a decade.

## State revenue vs health cost

"I knew later that smoking wasn't good but I couldn't

control it," said Wang, sitting on her hospital bed in a ward she shares with seven people with respiratory problems.

The costs to China from early deaths, lost productivity and medical costs as a result of smoking now exceed its gains from tax revenue.

China collected 41 billion yuan (\$4.9 billion) in cigarette taxes in 1993, but economic losses caused by smoking totalled 65 billion yuan, World Health Organisation (WHO) figures show.

"It looks like the losses (from smoking) outweigh the gains," Weng Xinzhi, vice-president of the Chinese Association on Smoking and Health, said in an interview.

One in every four people in China smoke. China burns 1.6 trillion cigarettes a year, making it the world's largest tobacco producer and consumer.

As part of China's fledgling anti-smoking drive, the Chinese capital of Beijing hosted the 10th World Conference on Tobacco or Health on Aug. 24-28.

The conference would focus on the tobacco industry's expansion into developing countries, the targeting of women smokers, tobacco litigation and legislation.

It remains to be seen

whether the conference will make a dent in the industry.

## More Chinese to die from smoking

The number of people dying from smoking-related diseases in China each year is expected to quadruple to two million by 2025, health officials say.

The first three causes of death in the world's most populous nation — cancer, cardio-vascular diseases and respiratory diseases — are all related to smoking, health officials say.

Wang, dressed in blue and white striped pyjamas and staring blankly into space, recalled how she became addicted.

When cigarettes were in short supply and rationed in the 1960s, Wang asked her work unit for cigarette coupons to give to her husband who was a heavy smoker.

To cover up her request for extra cigarettes for her husband, she was forced to start smoking herself in public.

## Cheap thrill fuelled habit

"Cigarettes cost a few cents then...I can't remember the brand," said Wang, reluctant to give details.

"There were no good cigarettes in those days and our economic situation was not good," Wang said.

She kicked the habit last January and was hospitalised this month after she lost her appetite, became too weak to walk and felt nauseous. Doctors declined to say how much longer she had to live.

Wang took 30 years to learn her lesson, but hopes her family will catch on to the dangers sooner.

"When I smell cigarettes now, I stay away," she said. "I've asked my (two) sons to smoke less and they have agreed," said the mother of five.

Wang is unusual in a nation where few women smoke but in which most men are addicts.

## Not all convinced of dangers

However former chain-smoker Sun Jianzhong, 42, a boiler plant workman, is more typical of the immense problem China faces if it is to cut its health bill.

"I was very healthy...I never got sick," said Sun, whose smoking brought on lung and heart problems in 1987.

The plump, bespectacled Sun puffed up to two packs a day for 17 years. Despite breathing difficulties, an intermittent cough and sev-



Doctors Zhang Hongyu (centre) and Yang Yuanhua (left) study X-ray results as a despondent Wang Jie, 65, sits on her bed in a Beijing hospital. Wang, a retired factory worker who has smoked for 30 years, is being treated for lung cancer and is soon likely to be a statistic — one of the hundreds of thousands who die each year in China from smoking related diseases (Reuters photo)

eral trips to hospital, he did not give up smoking until 1992.

Now admitted to the Chaoyang Hospital, Sun's lips and legs were blue from

lack of oxygen. Tubes hooked into his nose supply oxygen to his nicotine-poisoned body.

He spent about 12,000 yuan on cigarettes during

the 17 years of his habit. His employers, a state-owned boiler plant, have paid 50,000 yuan in hospital and medical costs.

His illness forced him to

give up work in 1994, but Sun remained pro-choice.

"I'm not opposed to others smoking. I also don't encourage others to smoke," he said.

# Smoking can trigger permanent increase in lung-cancer risk

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Toni Baran gave up cigarettes in 1982. Still, to her it's no wonder that 30 years of smoking three packs a day probably did irreparable damage to her lungs.

A new study suggests long term smoking throws a biological switch, encouraging both healthy and mutated lung cells to multiply thus permanently increasing the odds of developing cancer.

That's not news to Mrs. Baran, who now teaches stop-smoking classes in Honolulu.

"I'm not plastic, so where's the surprise?" she said. "You can't do that kind of behaviour for that long and be surprised that there's a price to pay for it."

The University of Pittsburgh study, released last Thursday and published in the August issue of the Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, looked at lab-grown lung cells from 37 non-smokers, light smokers and heavy smokers.

"Once this switch is turned on, it appears to be

permanent, which may explain in part why long-term ex-smokers who have not had a cigarette in over 25 years are still at high risk for getting lung cancer," said Dr. Jill Siegfried, who directed the study.

Heavy smokers were defined as those who had more than 25 "pack-years," smoking the equivalent of one pack a day for 25 years or two packs a day for 12 and a half years.

The researchers found an abnormal protein on the surface of lung cells from the

heavy smokers. The protein, gastrin-releasing peptide receptor, attracts a type of hormone that stimulates cells to divide.

"The more cell growth you have, the greater the chance that one of those mutated cells will be the one that grows," Dr. Siegfried said.

The harmful protein was not present in the light smokers, but Dr. Siegfried said a larger survey would be needed to determine when irreversible damage sets in.

Other researchers said Dr. Siegfried's findings were significant.

Dr. Vincent Miller, a lung-cancer researcher at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Institute in New York, said the study is the

first to explain why ex-smokers are twice as likely to develop lung cancer as those who have never smoked.

Many smokers mistakenly believe that when they stop, their lungs will eventually

become healthy again, said Dr. Frank Curtitta of the National Cancer Institute. He said this study shows why that doesn't happen.

But Eric Hunsaker of Pittsburgh, who has smoked cigarettes for nine years,

said the knowledge that he may be on the way to damaging his lungs permanently would not make him quit.

"I don't think any study will make you say, 'gee, I'm going to stop smoking,'" Mr. Hunsaker said.

# Slow progress in lung cancer battle

DUBLIN (R) — When Declan O'Farrell was diagnosed with lung cancer in 1992, he thought he had been given a death sentence.

Aged just 34, Mr. O'Farrell had stopped smoking up to 30 cigarettes a day two months earlier, when he started coughing up blood. By the time he went to the doctor he could barely walk 50 metres a day.

"The first reaction was total and utter shock. The fact that I was 34 at the time meant there was general disbelief among my family and friends," he said.

Five years later Mr. O'Farrell, a musician from Mullingar, 65 kilometres outside Dublin, is free of all signs of the disease and speed walks up to 32 kilometres a week.

He has recovered largely with the help of cancer-killing drugs, known as chemotherapy, a treatment he said was "at times very painful and traumatic," with side effects including severe weight loss, diarrhoea and fatigue.

But very few of the 350,000 people who will be diagnosed with lung cancer in the United States and European Union countries this year will match O'Farrell's recovery. On current form, 87 per cent are likely to be dead within five years, and 95 per cent will eventually die of their disease.

## Biggest cancer killer in U.S and EU

Like the battles of World War I, progress in the fight against lung cancer, now the biggest cancer killer in the U.S. and most of Europe, is marked in fractional territorial gains rather than great sweeping advances.

In the two decades between 1973 and 1992, the numbers surviving for five years after diagnosis rose to just 13 people in every 100 from 12, and compared with 40 in a 100 for cancers in general.

One problem is that symptoms such as blood in sputum, and repeated bouts of bronchitis and pneumonia, are often not evident until the disease is well advanced.

However despite the grim

record, the mood among 2,600 physicians, radiologists, scientists and carers at the Eighth World Lung Cancer Conference in Dublin this month was one of cautious optimism.

A handful of new drugs developed in recent years appear to offer the promise of nudging up survival rates and markedly improving the quality of life of sufferers, easing painful and debilitating symptoms.

Dr. Desmond Carney, secretary general of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer and an oncologist at University College, Dublin, said that 10 years ago patients with non-small cell lung cancer, the most common form of the disease, were almost never given drugs.

"We now believe we are at the stage where all patients with all types of lung cancer should be considered for chemotherapy," he said.

Scientists at the five-day conference said there was growing evidence that combinations of new and old drugs were helping to combat the disease directly and also shrinking tumours, making surgery and radiology more effective.

Among the drugs raising hopes are Bristol-Myers Squibb's Taxol, Eli Lilly's Gemzar, Smithkline Beecham's Hycamtin, Rhone-Poulenc Rorer's Taxotere, Vinorelbine, licensed to France's Pierre Fabre, and Irinotecan, licensed by Japan's Yakult Honsha Company.

"Dozens of clinical trials around the world are testing different combinations of new drugs and old faithfuls such as Cisplatin and Etoposide, developed by Bristol-Myers. Drug interaction with radiation is also being studied.

## Modest but real improvement in survival

David Johnson of the Vanderbilt University Cancer Centre in Nashville told the Dublin conference that "new drugs and new drug combinations appear to provide a modest but real

improvement in the survival of patients, including those with far advanced... disease."

Results from a number of Vanderbilt studies presented in Dublin showed survival rates of between 40 and 60 per cent, sometimes at two and three years after diagnosis, which scientists said allowed optimism that five-year rates would also improve.

"These collective data indicate that the therapeutic nihilism of the past is unwarranted," said Dr. Johnson.

There is also growing optimism that breakthroughs in understanding the genetic basis of lung cancer will open the way to powerful biotechnology drugs and accurate tests for early signs of disease.

## Threat of epidemic among younger people

But for all the hope, scientists and doctors at the Dublin conference clearly felt powerless against the might of tobacco companies and worrying signs that young people are taking up smoking in ever greater numbers. In the developing world the situation is even

worse — virtually all Chinese men are estimated to be smokers.

"Ninety-five per cent of lung cancer deaths are due directly to cigarette smoking, and the great fear we have is that we are facing an epidemic of this disease in young people, especially young women," said Dr. Carney.

Epidemiologist Peter Boyle told the conference that "smoking in many respects represents a great failure of public health. Forty years after the hazards of smoking were established, cigarettes are still responsible for 30 per cent of deaths in Britain and the U.S."

With the evangelism of the reformed, Declan O'Farrell describes himself as "quietly contemptuous of smokers." He won't allow smoking in his home and leaves when anyone lights up around him.

"Three of my family were not shocked into giving up smoking despite what happened to me, which highlights how addictive the drug is," he said.

# ANSWERS

## PUZZLES

(A) Spider.

(It has eight legs; all the others have six).

(B) Record.

(A disc is a record, and a record is an achievement).

(C) HELP THE PORTER

YORK,  
HULL,  
LEEDS  
BOLTON,  
BRISTOL.

# WEEKEND CROSSWORD

## CELEBRITY PROPERTY

By Norma Steinberg

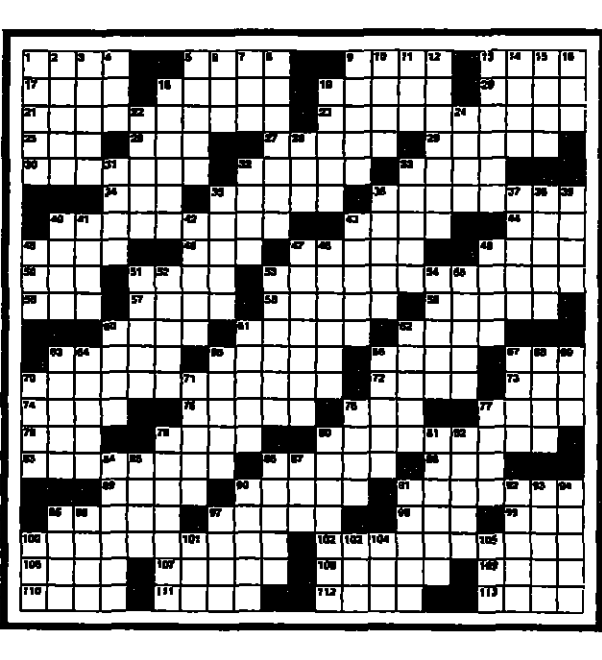
### ACROSS

1. Machete
2. Star
3. Star's dance
4. Poetess
5. Construction site
6. To die
7. Out of living
8. Transference
9. Star's answering service
10. "To — is humor"
11. Ship
12. Ship
13. Ship
14. Ship
15. Ship

### DOWN

1. Role with a hole
2. "Common" or "Norm"
3. Leads motor truck
4. Point
5. Polished
6. Chair
7. Some earnings
8. Ship
9. Ship
10. Ship
11. Ship
12. Ship
13. Ship
14. Ship
15. Ship

16. Legal matter
17. Pay period
18. "Thomas"
19. "Katie's" party?
20. Keep stopper
21. Wasting
22. "Katie's" party?
23. "Katie's" party?
24. "Katie's" party?
25. "Katie's" party?
26. "Katie's" party?
27. "Katie's" party?
28. "Katie's" party?
29. "Katie's" party?
30. "Katie's" party?
31. "Katie's" party?



## Diagramless, 18x19

By Chuck Deodene

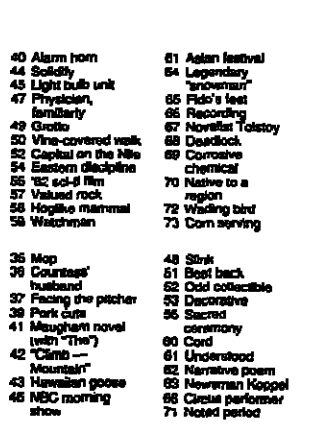
### ACROSS

1. Muzzle again
2. Star's dance
3. Ship
4. Ship
5. Ship
6. Ship
7. Ship
8. Ship
9. Ship
10. Ship
11. Ship
12. Ship
13. Ship
14. Ship
15. Ship

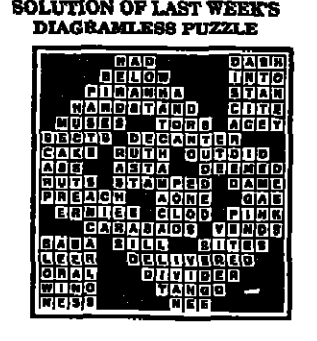
### DOWN

1. Role with a hole
2. "Common" or "Norm"
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11. Ship
12. Ship
13. Ship
14. Ship
15. Ship

## SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY PUZZLE



## SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S DIAGRAMLESS PUZZLE



## Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Could fat figure made from snow, standing on lawn, be called "Abdominal" Snowman?

2. Crafty helper did tuck work; he used forty push pins to hold torn wallpaper while paste dried.

3. Big banana leaf was proper wrapping for two warm tangles.

4. Frisky rooster and cheeky young hen found dancing chick to chick.

1. SPPE B SPAC WAXMZ DARYZCHABR

EPDZVIPAPA DCORE BTTOHP ZIP PFDCEPE

UCAET "TUCCTI" CA "ZUPPZT" ZC WP

"RZZRP." — By Duane H. McGee

2. NOUQUE YSIGUCCIS SUGUSSUT P1 CZAPZC

RZAT IG TUPFPU UOUC ZC CHRISTMAZPU

NOZECUC. — By Barbara J. Rupp

3. BIG RIEZM VERR U TALK DUM, TALDUZZE

UHGULM GILM "WOLIGUTAUDEA" WUYUSA

NI VTUAB OYNI IEL ZUTZUSA? — By K.C. Doyle

4. KTU ELORLE ONLY IRE KAID ENRI OVER

WYTO WRDTI YV AINTWAY RUNAWAY. — By Ed Braddenden



## Israelis, Palestinians prepare jointly for Gaza bomb attack

NETZARIM (AFP) — Israeli and Palestinian security forces held an unusual joint exercise near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip Wednesday to evacuate dead and wounded from a mock bombing, officials said.

But the Israeli army was quick to stress that "regretably" the operation did not amount to the kind of cooperation in the fight against terrorism which Israel is demanding from the Palestinians as a condition for lifting painful economic sanctions.

Palestinian officials said the exercise began with the detonation of a mock bomb which "wounded" 14 Palestinians and 12 Israelis on an Israeli-controlled road which leads to Netzarim — a Jewish settlement in the heart of Palestinian-ruled Gaza and a frequent site of violence in the past.

About 100 Palestinian police and an equal number of Israeli soldiers, including medical personnel and a dozen ambulances, evacuated the casualties in an operation that took half the 75 minutes allotted to the exercise, security officials said.

A year ago Israeli troops and Palestinian police fought a deadly gunbattle on the same road during rioting which erupted after Israel opened a new entrance into an archaeological tunnel near Muslim holy sites in Arab east Jerusalem.

The road was also hit by a suicide bombing last April which only killed the bomber and wounded several Palestinian passersby but missed the Jewish settlers who were presumably the target.

An army spokesman said Israel "welcomes the cooperation on humanitarian issues" with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), which Israel has been pressing unsuccessfully to launch a wide-scale crackdown on armed militant groups following a double suicide bombing in Jerusalem last month.

"Regrettably the exercise does not include cooperation against terrorist activity or the fight against terrorism or intelligence cooperation," the spokesman said.

Asked if the training was designed to prepare for a possible new outbreak of fighting between Israeli and Palestinian police, the spokesman would only say the aim was "to address any scenario where there would be a need to evacuate wounded or killed on the Netzarim road."

## Jordan refutes claim of U.S. pressure to conduct dialogue

(Continued from page 1)

elections, the Muslim Brotherhood demanded the abolition of the one-person, one-vote system, the freezing of controversial amendments to the Press and Publications Law, the halting of what they deem as measures aimed at curbing the role of political parties and professional unions, as well as constitutional reforms and the raising of the ceiling of public freedoms.

More recently, however, Islamic leaders have stressed on different occasions that the Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), would rescind their boycott decision should the government show willingness to meet part of their demands.

"But this government has not taken any serious

action," Mr. Abu Diah said yesterday, adding that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali "is just trying to give the impression that he is engaging in a dialogue" to keep "the West" at bay.

"The U.S. and the West in general have interest in the [opposition-government] dialogue to be successful and the Islamists to participate in the elections," Mr. Abu Diah told the Jordan Times, adding that the Islamists' participation in the November polls is a major requirement to the country's stability and democratic development.

U.S. ambassador to Jordan, Wesley Egan was not immediately available yesterday to comment on this statement.

Tension between the government and the Islamists has mounted this week.

Muslim Brotherhood's Al Sabeel weekly declared on Tuesday that the government should "go home" if the dialogue with opposition parties fails.

Al Sabeel quoted Muslim Brotherhood overall leader Abdul Majid Thneibat as accusing the government of having "imposed a new strategy, a so-called collective dialogue," involving all political parties, in order to avoid a direct confrontation with the Islamists, the back-bone of the opposition.

"We are not against dialogue with the government, and we are not against the government conducting dialogue with whoever it wants, but we perceive ourselves as having a cause, and such dialogue should be conducted directly with us," Mr. Thneibat said.

## Gaza refugees continue protesting U.N. cuts

(Continued from page 1)

strike "so that the entire school year will not be wrecked."

Over 150,000 Palestinian children attend UNRWA schools in the Gaza Strip. UNRWA provides aid to a total 3.4 million Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

UNRWA has received just \$207 million from aid donors and expects to have \$220 million in hand at year-end, which leaves a \$20 million deficit for the year, according to UNRWA head Peter Hansen.

Other than charging

around \$15 a year for schooling, UNRWA has also had to cut international staff by 15 per cent to 135 and cancelled the hiring of 250 new teachers needed to cope with 11,000 new students this year.

Other cuts include an immediate freeze on university scholarships, all cash emergency assistance for hardship cases and shelter rehabilitation.

"There is now no other choice than setting these very cruel measures in motion. I am very sorry it has to come to this. There is no other way to save the agency," Mr. Hansen said in Geneva Tuesday.

## Haddadin, Sharon discuss Jordan Rift Valley projects

(Continued from page 1)

the two countries" is suitable to start some JRV projects adding that the coming days and weeks will "witness the implementation of some."

The Israeli official, who is in charge of Israeli relations with Arab countries, said Israel had finished planning some desalination projects but "these ventures cost huge capitals and need foreign financing."

"During the visit of Prime Minister (Benjamin) Netanyahu to Japan... some Japanese firms expressed their interest to invest in these projects and to join a desalination scheme."

Mr. Mjalli said that among the JRV projects that would be implemented are "those which could be implemented in a very short span of time."

"There are several proposals, such as linking Aqaba with Dead sea factories through a rail-

road... among tens of projects that have been submitted, we will implement those projects for which financing is also attainable," Mr. Mjalli said.

Mr. Netanyahu, who wrapped up a visit to Japan on Tuesday, said the Japanese are not against having their funding and expertise harnessed for an Israeli-Jordanian water desalination project.

"The government of Japan is prepared to allocate funds and know-how to this end. They asked for a detailed proposal. Had they not wanted to go ahead, they would have said it was difficult or dangerous," said Mr. Netanyahu following his meeting with Japanese officials.

Among the desalination projects the Kingdom is eager to launch a \$100 million project, that would provide the Kingdom with additional 50 million cubic metres (MCM) of drinkable water.

## Israel ends month-long blockade of Bethlehem

(Continued from page 1)

the confrontations, raising fears of a replay of armed clashes between the two sides a year ago which left 85 people dead.

On Wednesday the streets were quiet as Palestinian police, in preparation for the end of the blockade, prevented youths from approaching Israeli lines.

The only confrontation came when troops scuffled briefly with Palestinian political and religious leaders from Jerusalem and Bethlehem who tried to meet on the Israeli side of the main army road-block outside the town.

Mr. Netanyahu nevertheless renewed his charge that Mr. Arafat was fomenting street violence. "We have solid information that the PNA is encouraging popular uprisings to further aggravate the crisis," he said.

But Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy came out in favour of lifting the overall closure on the terri-

ories, which prevents some 100,000 Palestinians from reaching jobs in Israel.

Palestinian officials dismissed the opening of Bethlehem, saying Israel must also end the remaining sanctions.

"The lifting of the closure on Bethlehem has no value," said Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo. All the closure measures must be ended and the money that was stolen from the Palestinian [National] Authority must be returned with interest.

Bethlehem area residents echoed that sentiment as they moved freely around their town for the first time in a month.

"I hope this will speed up the peace process, but I don't think so," said Mustafa Abed, a school teacher, as he crossed from his home village into Bethlehem's suburb of Beit Sahur. "Netanyahu doesn't want peace, he wants land."

While army checkpoints

on main entrances were opened, side roads in Bethlehem remained closed by concrete blocks and earthen barriers placed there by Israeli soldiers.

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials insisted they were engaged in sincere security cooperation with Israel and pointed as proof to an unusual joint disaster drill carried out Wednesday by Israeli troops and Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip.

But the Israeli army insisted the operation was a "humanitarian exercise" which "regrettably... does not include cooperation against terrorist activity or the fight against terrorism or intelligence cooperation."

Meanwhile, a poll released Wednesday said Palestinian support for suicide attacks against Israel increased by nearly five percentage points to 28.2 per cent during the past four months of deadlock in the peace process.

## Israel demolishes home of blind man with ten children and wife

(Continued from page 12)

are part of punitive measures linked to the attack.

Wednesday's home demolitions coincided with a Jerusalem regional planning committee debate on the proposed construction of 54 settlement units for Jews in the nearby Arab neighbourhood of Ras Al Amud.

Left-wing members of the city council lodged an appeal to prevent construction of the settlement on grounds it would spark mass Palestinian

demonstrations and endanger the peace process and the lives of Jews living in the neighbourhood.

While the government and the American owner of the land have expressed reservations about beginning construction in the near future, both would like to leave open the option.

"The fact that the municipality destroyed houses in this area on the same day as this debate shows what kind of a neighbourhood they want to build in this area,"

said Arnon Yekutieli of the opposition Meretz Party. "This will bring bloodshed."

The planning committee is expected to decide on the appeal on September 8.

The Palestinians broke off peace talks with Israel in March after it began construction on a new Jewish settlement in mostly Arab east Jerusalem, where the Palestinians hope to establish the capital of a future state.

## Israel confirms arrest of Golan Heights woman

(Continued from page 1)

the rector of Damascus University issued a protest letter over Ilham's detention.

Her brother complained that authorities did not allow Ilham to see an attorney.

In the letter addressed to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan and published by the official Syrian News Agency, Abdul Ghani Maelbareed condemned a "wave of arrests conducted by Israeli troops" who have been occupying the Golan since 1967.

Under a U.N.-sponsored agreement, the students of the area are continuing their university studies in Damascus.

Mr. Maelbareed asked the U.N. "to work to release the student and to end the arrests and arbitrary acts perpetrated" by the Israeli authorities.

Golan Druze staged a general strike and street protests Tuesday over Ilham's arrest.

Israel radio reported that police reinforcements had been sent to Majdal Shams, the region's main Druze town, to prevent further unrest.

Some 15,000 Druze live on the Golan, occupied by Israel in 1967. Most of them have rejected Israeli nationality and do not serve in the Israeli army.

## Jordan, Israel say media's stormy reports on water dam are untrue

(Continued from page 1)

wide-range of criticism from Syria and the Arab League.

Spokesman of the Israeli embassy in Amman, Roey Gilad, told the Jordan Times that Mr. Sharon has denied the Ha'aretz report.

"The infrastructure ministry today (Wednesday) denied the Israeli media reports published in the previous days and said that Israel has no role in building the dam," Mr. Gilad said.

According to the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty, signed in October 1994, Israel has to annually supply the Kingdom with a 50 million cubic metres (MCM) of water.

An additional 50 mcm of water will be allocated to Jordan through joint water projects, which would be financed by the two countries.

The \$303 million Jordanian project stipulates the building

of a major dam structure on the Jordanian-Syrian border. The dam will be 100 metres high and will give Jordan the ability to store about 225 mcm of water from the Yarmouk River with an average incremental yield of 85 mcm per year.

The dam will help satisfy both municipal and agricultural demands, as well as it will generate electricity. The financing of the project has not yet been secured.

Last June, Mr. Sharon and Dr. Haddadin met in Aqaba and agreed on a plan to supply Jordan with the additional quantity of water.

Aqaba airport agreement to be signed Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Israel will sign on Sunday an agreement to operate a pilot flight to the Kingdom's southern airport of Aqaba, which will be used by the two countries to attract foreign

tourists, the spokesman of the Israeli embassy in Amman said Wednesday.

Roey Gilad, told the Jordan Times that Israeli minister of transportation, Yitzhak Levy, will arrive in Aqaba along with 30 other officials on Sunday.

He added that a meeting will take place between Mr. Levy and his Jordanian counterpart, Bassam Saket, which will be followed by a joint press conference. Dr. Saket was not immediately available for comment.

According to a proposed plan, Israeli planes will operate flights to Aqaba, which will be the only international airport in the southern regions of the two countries.

Mr. Gilad said that the Israeli minister of telecommunications, Limor Livnat, was scheduled to arrive in Jordan on Wednesday, but delayed her visit for "technical reasons."



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## Poverty persists in Asia despite economic miracle — World Bank

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Asia's continued economic prosperity could be threatened by the continuing problem of poverty, in which some 900 million Asians live, the World Bank said in two reports.

While in East Asia poverty has decreased with unprecedented economic growth, India's

development rate has been much more modest and the country has 300 million people in poverty, the reports noted.

The reports show that poverty has fallen dramatically in East Asia — down 27 per cent from 1975-85 and a further 35 per cent from 1985-95. The declines have been

attributed to macroeconomic stability, the accumulation of human and financial capital, the opening of markets and a high-level of personal savings.

The decline in poverty in East Asia is the steepest ever seen in the developing world, the bank said. While in 1975 six out of

10 people in the region lived in poverty, that number has been dramatically reduced to two out of 10 today.

The most populated countries in the region, China and Indonesia, together accounted for 92 per cent of those living in poverty in the region in 1975.

Since then, China has seen its poverty rate plunge 63 per cent while Indonesia's rate fell 82 per cent.

Even greater reductions were seen in Thailand, where the poverty rate fell 90 per cent and in Malaysia, 95 per cent.

Social indicators such as life expectancy, infant mortality, and number of school-age children attending school also went up, the bank noted.

But the East Asia study, entitled "Everyone's Miracle?", says efforts need to be redoubled to fight poverty.

"After three decades in which rapid growth and reduced inequality were the hallmark of the East Asian economic miracle, inequality is becoming more widespread," the bank said.

There is still widespread poverty in countries in transition such as Cambodia, Laos, Mongolia and Vietnam, where the poor are concentrated in rural regions.

In addition, the bank found that poverty is concentrated among some social groups, especially minority groups, in countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.

Finally, countries like China and Thailand are seeing an increased disparity between developing urban areas and stagnant rural ones.

The disparity threatens to not only lower the rate at which poverty is being reduced but also put a brake on the growth rates of these countries by threatening their social cohesion, the bank warned.

Noting the recent turbulence on financial and currency markets caused by the Thailand crisis, the bank's report adds that "any impact on growth which could translate into slowing progress in reducing poverty would be cause for great concern."

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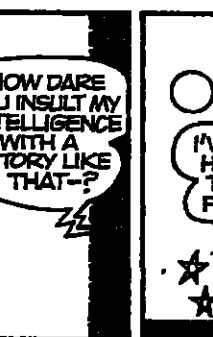
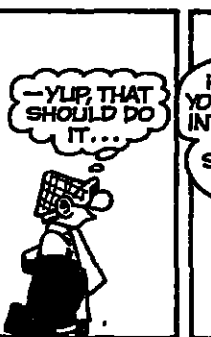
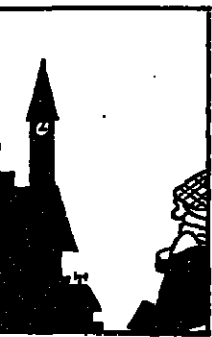


ALPHA

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



REUTERS

REUTERS

### The Business of Information

#### Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	SEK	DKK
US Dollar	1.0000	1.9362	0.6301	0.7036	117.48	1.3337	1801.25	2.0800	0.2235
DE Mark	0.5193	1.0000	0.3410	0.3536	63.83	0.7544	974.85	1.2257	0.3369
GB Sterling	1.5870	2.8315	1.0000	0.8221	166.33	2.2118	2860.75	3.3031	0.9842
CHF Franc	0.4884	0.7142	0.4141	1.0000	77.33	0.9168	1185.71	1.3727	0.4834
JP Yen	0.0085	0.0157	0.0075	0.0149	1.0000	0.0094	173.63	0.0094	0.0094
CA Dollar	0.7175	1.3305	0.4505	0.8221	117.48	1.0000	1295.55	1.4978	0.4812
IT Lira	0.0006	0.0011	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	1.0000	0.0006	0.0006
SEK Krona	0.4884	0.7142	0.4141	0.8221	117.48	0.9168	1185.71	1.0000	0.4834
DKK Krone	0.1607	0.2967	0.1012	0.1012	11.75	0.2235	33.41	33.41	1.0000

#### Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	SEK	DKK
US Dollar	1.0000	1.9362	0.6301	0.7036	117.48	1.3337	1801.25	2.0800	0.2235
Jordan Dinar	0.7080	1.3706	0.3770	0.4240	0.3053	0.3728	538.00	0.3380	0.3380
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.5142	0.1607	0.1736	0.0193	0.0238	34.22	0.0238	0.0238
Bahrain Dinar	2.66	5.142	1.607	1.736	0.2193	0.2728	392.22	0.2728	0.2728
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.5294	0.1736	0.1904	0.0238	0.0294	42.53	0.0294	0.0294
Kuwait Dinar	2.2760	4.394	1.4505	1.607	0.2193	0.2728	392.22	0.2728	0.2728
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.5294	0.1736	0.1904	0.0238	0.0294	42.53	0.0294	0.0294
Lebanese Pound	0.25	0.4803	0.1585	0.1736	0.0193	0.0238	34.22	0.0238	0.0238
Egyptian	0.2954	0.5652	0.1885	0.2104	0.0238	0.0294	42.53	0.0294	0.0294

#### Energy

Commodity	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Brent	18.99	36.54	11.75	12.95	1511.00
WTI	20.14	38.64	12.40	13.64	1571.00
Bonny	18.99	36.54	11.75	12.95	1511.00
Dubai	17.60	33.70	10.75	11.75	1401.00
U.S. Gas	217.00	417.00	131.00	141.00	1611.00

#### Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2668	0.5142	0.1607	0.1736	0.0193
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.5294	0.1736	0.1904	0.0238
KW Dinar	2.2760	4.394	1.4505	1.607	0.2193
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.7240	0.2380	0.2668	0.0319
CY Pound	1.3595	2.6252	0.8631	0.9454	0.1081

#### Metal Prices

Commodity	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Gold (oz)	323	623.5	243.5	263.5	3133.5
Silver (oz)	4.52	8.64	3.34	3.64	43.34
Platinum (oz)	413	803.5	303.5	333.5	4033.5
AL (3 Months)	1844	3584	1344	1484	1783.5
CU (3 Months)	2188	4248	1588	1728	2083.5
Zinc (3 Months)	1484	2884	1084	1184	1433.5
Lead (3 Months)	620	1204	444	484	583.5
NI (3 Months)	6720	13020	4820	5220	6323.5

#### Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
USD	5.43	10.86	3.69	3.78	4.47
GBP	6.94	13.88	4.12	4.21	5.11
JPY	0.44	0.88	0.29	0.30	0.36
DEM	3.12	6.24	2.04	2.13	2.56
FRF	3.23	6.46	2.10	2.19	2.62
CHF	1.33	2.66	0.89	0.92	1.10
ITL	6.73	13.46	4.51	4.83	5.87

#### Main Equity Indices

Index	Value	Chg	% Chg	High	Low	Pr Cls
New York	7894.52	-26.71	-0.33	8023.1	7888.5	8021.2
DOW JONES	336.06	-2.89	-0.86	339.47	335.28	336.35
S&P 500	4983.7	25.3	0.51	4994.1	4962.5	4958.4
FT-SE 100	19167.12	-95.11	-0.49	19394	19125	19252
Nikkei 225	2960.53	-18.84	-0.63	2992.6	2951	2979.3
CAC 40	4253.57	30.24	0.72	4278.5	4241.7	4223.4

#### Energy

Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	170	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1895	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	347.5	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	143	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	22.02	Spot
Tea (kg/100)	185	Spot
Barley (\$/bush)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	450	Spot

#### JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1262	1.1318
DE Mark	0.3808	0.3827
CHF Franc	0.4639	0.4662
FR Franc	0.113	0.1136
JP Yen	0.0099	0.00995
NI Guider	0.3382	0.3399
IT Lira	0.3912	0.3932

\* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

### THE Daily Crossword

#### ACROSS

1 "On - Old Smoky"

6 Total: abbr.

9 Domino

13 Adds —

14 "Serpico" author

16 Healing plant

17 City on the Seine

18 Gumbo

19 Full of antics

20 Sinatra's musical arranger

23 Splitville

24 Part of n.b.

25 Harper Valley org.

28 Bossy sound

30 Metallic dross

32 Neutral pigments

34 Long vestments

36 Hormone

38 Follows secretly

39 Compromise

42 More mean-spirited

43 Antitoxins

44 Give out catcalls

45 Scents

47 — Blanc

49 Murals, e.g.

50 Opp. of art.

51 Verne captain

53 Algerian port

55 Hale and healthy

58 Carson's successor

62 Aleutian island

63 "Dad"

64 Antelope

65 School near Windsor Castle

66 — Gay

67 Jane or Zane

68 Newt

69 Kingly

DOWN

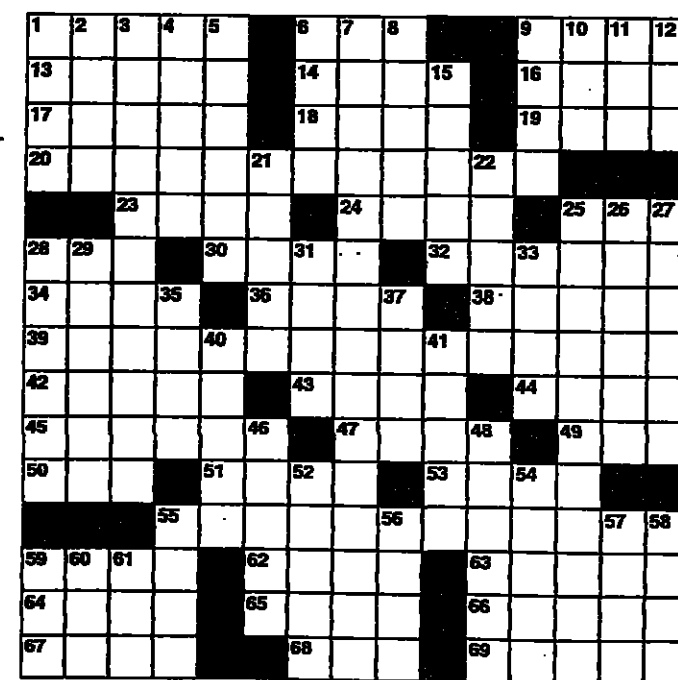
1 Mountain lake

2 Woodwind

3 He played "The Emperor Jones"

4 Pinguid

5 Papal capes



by Raymond Hamel

#### Puzzle solved:

JURA	AHARD	JIBE
UNIT	PIXIE	ODIN
DUMP	ONTON	FIELD
EMERALDS	OSAGE	
ERLE	HOTLER	
CUTSCORNERS		
LEWES	ORGANZAS	
OLIN	SAVOY	IONA
PENTACLE	AGLOW	
FAUL	LOFBEANS	
GRAVITY	POUR	
AESIR	VERTICAL	
PEPPERDINE	AONE	
ESCE	BONUS	NONO
DEAR	INEPT	SPAN

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- 40 Esfahan resident
- 41 "La Mancha" work
- 46 Bristles
- 48 Certain molecule
- 52 Framing choice
- 54 Hersey town
- 55 Shrewd
- 56 Polly, to Tom Sawyer
- 57 Dancer Montez
- 58 Of an epic time period
- 59 Chronicle
- 60 Miscalculate
- 61 Humorist Bill

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You should not believe everything you hear today, since some of it could be second-hand information. A fellow associate may be confused. Use your charm with others to strengthen friendships which have lasted.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You may not like a labour condition today, and it is best to trust this instinct. Labour to clarify this. Friends should prove cooperative at this time, thereby you can handle any difficulties. Labour at trying to be happy.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Turn up the charm and beauty today, dress well, thereby you will become successful. Get your important duties under control and postpone plans for pleasure until your difficulties are solved and there is peace with you.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) A clever loved one can help you to solve a difficulty in an unexpected manner today, so seek out the answers from him or her. Great potential exists for cooperation among fellow associates at this time.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You should not succumb to distractions today, so keep your mind upon doing whatever is expected. Concentrate on one issue, listen to an expert on the subject. Work and shop alone, since only you can decide what you want.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Seize the moment to labour on some creative affair for which you have much talent at this time. Have fun with humorous friends later this evening, thereby you will enjoy being with close friends and loved ones.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) You should not make any important agreements today while some confusion exists, however do try to labour on home affairs which you have put aside. Avoid an irresponsible scheme which could backfire in your face.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Focus on what you are confident in today, and don't concern yourself about an issue which puzzles you. Steer clear of a person who is frustrated and let him or her be by themselves to cool off and regain their composure.



## Syrian trade delegation wraps up visit to Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A Syrian trade delegation ended a five day visit here Wednesday after signing contracts to sell food to Iraq and agreeing to do more to boost economic ties between the two former foes.

The 12-strong delegation signed several agreements with Iraqi import companies on Tuesday for the sale of food products, mostly vegetables, the daily Al-Jumhuriya said.

Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh attended the signing ceremony and said Iraq wants to "strengthen trade cooperation with our Syrian brothers."

"The next step will see a broadening of cooperation," he added.

Mohammad Mahdi, the head of the Syrian delegation,

said Syrian businessmen were keen to consolidate economic ties with their neighbour.

The delegation met Mr. Saleh and Iraq's ministers of foreign affairs and oil to discuss ways to boost trade relations, an Iraqi official spokesman said.

Iraq, under U.N. economic sanctions since the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, was authorised in December to sell two billion dollars of oil to finance imports of food and medical supplies under an "oil-for-food" accord with the United Nations.

Syria and Iraq broke off relations in 1980 because of Damascus's support for Tehran in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. They closed their border two years later.

However, ties have warmed in the past three

months after a Syrian trade delegation travelled to Baghdad to break the ice, and the border has been reopened to businessmen.

Earlier this month the United Nations has allowed Iraq to import goods via the border with Syria.

Iraq is taking part in Syria's International Fair in Damascus, which opens Thursday, for the first time in 17 years, while Syria is to participate for the first time in the Babylon cultural festival in Iraq next month.

The influential Babel newspaper, run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, has called for closer Iraqi-Syrian ties to counter a growing military alliance between Israel and Turkey.

Meanwhile, Iraq's Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh left for Syria

on Wednesday, fuelling speculation The two Arab states might soon resume diplomatic ties, severed 17 years ago.

A trade ministry source said Mr. Saleh would attend the opening of an official trade fair in Damascus on Thursday and see what Iraq could buy from Syria under an oil-for-food deal with the United Nations.

The source also said Iraq signed with Syrian businessmen on Tuesday a contract to supply Baghdad with 25,000 tonnes of pulses under the oil accord.

"Trade Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh left for Syria today to attend Damascus international fair which will be opened on Thursday," the source told Reuters.

"His visit comes within efforts to boost trade ties

between The two countries," he added.

Iraq and Syria decided three months ago to reopen their borders for trade, closed in 1980 when ties were cut because Damascus sided with Iran in the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war.

Since June the two Arab countries, ruled by rival factions of the Ba'ath Party, have been exchanging economic teams.

Officials from Iraq and Syria have hinted of a possible diplomatic rapprochement between the two countries.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al-Sahaf has recently called for better relations with Syria and an Iraqi newspaper urged the two Arab states to establish military cooperation.

Representatives of more than 40 Iraqi companies left

earlier this week to Syria to attend Damascus trade fair and try to conclude deals under the oil pact.

The oil deal, which allows Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months in exchange for food and medicine, went into effect last December and was renewed for six months on June 8. But Baghdad delayed exports for the second phase until two weeks ago to modify plans for aid.

Iraqi newspapers said on Wednesday the ministry signed another contract with Syrian companies to supply soap under the oil accord. They said the signing ceremony was attended by Saleh.

During the first six months of the deal Iraq signed contracts with Syria worth \$20 million to supply wheat and pulses.

## Riyadh studying privatisation of airline

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Defence Minister Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz said Tuesday the oil-rich kingdom was studying privatising various aspects of its public sector.

Asked to comment on businessmen's request to set up a domestic airline company, Prince Sultan, who is also second deputy prime minister, said in comments broadcast by Saudi Television:

"A month ago, there was a decision which was sent to specialised committees to study privatisation...and this includes all government sectors..." He gave no details.

Saudi Arabia's government, after a cabinet meeting chaired by King Fahd earlier this month, said it was committed to giving the private sector a bigger role in the

world's largest oil producer and exporter, but the cabinet gave no details.

Earlier this month, newspapers reported that the chairman of the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce and Industry said Saudi businessmen had recently informed the national airline they were interested in setting up a domestic carrier.

The Saudi Gazette last week quoted the head of Saudi Arabia's business community as saying he backed the creation of a private domestic airline in the kingdom.

The national airline, with 12.5 million passengers annually, is spending \$6 billion on 61 new Boeing and McDonnell Douglas aircraft. Deliveries are due to start this month.

## Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Official report estimates number of tourists to Jordan to rise to 1.5m in year 2000

\*\* ACCORDING TO official estimates, the number of tourists expected to visit the Kingdom in the year 2000 will be around 1.5 million. A government report on tourism shows that the number of hotel rooms is expected to reach 18,000 by the same target year. Amman, Petra and the Dead Sea were seen as the main sites most of the tourism investments. The report also estimates an increase in the number of the labour force working in the tourism sector to reach 15,000 persons by the year 2000. These estimates include those working directly in tourism facilities.

As a result, various activities, including traditional industries manufacturing touristic products, will noticeably progress to be in line with the forecast of an increase in the number of tourists. "The expected rise in tourism activity and tourism investments, will put additional pressure on the water, communications and other services," the report indicated. "As such, the role of these services should be activated and its production efficiency raised to face the competition of regional tourism."

The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) sees the necessity of giving the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities wider authority and greater flexibility as well as ensuring that there is no duplication between the laws and regulations of the ministry and other institutions.

The RSS proposed establishing a "tourism chamber" that will include all main tourism activities and support services in order to cooperate and coordinate all these elements for the better performance of the whole sector.

Meanwhile, sources at the Ministry of Tourism said approvals were given to set up 20 hotel projects over the coming years at a total cost of about JD39 million. At present, 47 hotel projects are still under implementation at an estimated total cost of JD246 million. The projects are expected to provide 5,286 rooms and 1,077 beds (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaq).

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Practical affairs may challenge your sense of responsibility to something else. Use your insight today to realise a loved one's unfulfilled need, and this should be recognised. This evening will be good for going out on town.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) An important outside affair needs attention today, however, first finalise your budget, thereby you will have extra funds. Avoid an irate fellow associate, however, listen closely to a new contact for his or her advice.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Settle an old debt today, then study a new project which is profitable and thereby you can become quite successful. Use your ability to see both sides of any difficult situation to help a fellow associate.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Listen to those with practical instincts today for new insight. Later, apply careful thought to a creative idea, so that you will gain recognition from a bigwig. Avoid extravagance later this evening, thereby you can have extra funds.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) A higher-up is in an excellent position today to assist you if you make your desires known. Avoid a counter-productive situation between a loved one and outsider. Otherwise a difficult situation could result.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Conditions prove favourable today for cutting down on expenses, thereby you can have some extra funds. Follow through on a new contact at this time and it will enhance your whole day for the better.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Make your plans for a special event today, which you have in mind. Implement a special project you have in mind with the assistance of a practical person, who has some suggestions for the days ahead.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) This morning plan how to make your home more harmonious and festive for those who you invite in. Later this evening, listen to a trouble fellow associate who need answers. You should not let outside pressures weaken your resolve.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Support a fellow associate plans to expand today, then you can be more efficient at your career activities. You should not shun a personal duty or you disturb a love one or a bigwig who can be beneficial.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Help your mate to solve his or her meaningful monetary affairs and thereby you can make the situation more pleasurable. This may involve adjusting your own accounts. Forget the advice of others.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Avoid a disagreement with a prominent person or you could encounter a difficult situation. Today is a good time to listen to your mate's advice. Advances are made towards fulfilling a wish later this evening.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Accept the invitation today to go on a short trip with a close friend. Forget about attending an event later this evening which could be counter-productive and could lead to quite a difficult situation.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTRE - AMMAN - JORDANI											
TELEPHONE: 507111 / 507170											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 27/08/1997											
PART 12 MONTHS HIGH	PART 12 MONTHS LOW	CORPORATE NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
298,000	223,000	ARAB BANK	13.6	1.36	13	420	271300	294.50	295.00	-.50	
N 2,340	1,480	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	6	3950	7702	1.94	1.95	-.01	
5,820	4,100	CALCO ARABIAN BK.	10.7	2.88	5	25500	117000	5.30	5.20	-.10	
3,620	2,760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.5	0.00	1	750	770	3.05	3.08	-.03	
1,210	860	JOR. EASTERN INV. BK.	59.8	0.00	4	1740	1585	1.89	1.91	-.02	
2,480	2,150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.3	7.51	9	3200	7217	2.28	2.25	-.03	
5,220	4,550	THE HOUSING BK.	14.2	4.08	4	1500	4750	4.75	4.75	-	
4,180	2,440	JOR. EMBLIT BANK	11.0	0.00	1	94	2840	3.10	3.10	-	
6,050	3,520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	15.9	3.08	7	7690	30269	3.92	3.90	-.02	
2,730	1,110	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	9	0.00	8	1844	2368	1.26	1.27	-.01	
3,800	3,050	JOR. INV. FUND BANK	21.2	0.00	9	4037	19859	3.28	3.30	-.02	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 216.64	%CHG: +0.11	72	49257	463110				
2,230	1,590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.0	8.47	1	250	443	1.77	1.77	-	
2,200	1,820	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	8.2	4.76	2	550	1115	2.10	2.10	-	
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 114.89	%CHG: 0.00	3	800	1558				
1,820	1,520	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	6.02	18	7900	13163	1.67	1.66	-.01	
3,050	2,180	SHIPPING LINES	16.3	4.64	2	2250	6300	2.82	2.80	-.02	
1,550	930	KATL. PORTFOLIO CO.	9	0.00	1	7000	10311	1.40	1.40	-	
1,010	820	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	1	200	184	.90	.92	-.02	
1,810	480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	27.2	0.00	2	1350	716	.62	.63	-.01	
1,840	1,150	INT. EAST HOTELS	19.4	0.00	8	4450	8757	1.28	1.27	-.01	
3,720	2,890	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	8.8	0.00	32	9200	31227	3.48	3.38	-.10	
1,220	930	JARCA EDUCATION	9	0.00	12	11250	11764	1.05	1.05	-	
2,230	1,630	UNIFIED CO.	8.3	6.32	3	1400	2436	1.74	1.74	-	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 111.94	%CHG: -0.73	86	45440	81955				
4,450	3,220	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.1	2.84	24	9859	38245	3.89	3.88	-.01	
Y 10,250	9,070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.4	8.62	20	1630	16776	10.20	10.31	-.11	
1,470	1,050	MOULIN INDUSTRIES	8.23	2.2	2	750	875	1.20	1.20	-	
3,240	1,650	INDUSTRIAL CONN. AGR.	9	0.00	2	350	750	1.20	1.20	-	
4,250	3,040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	11.4	4.85	12	4665	19191	4.11	4.12	-.01	
9,800	5,000	JOR. CHEM. IND.	10.8	0.00	1	100	614	5.85	6.14	-.29	
5,650	4,300	DAR ALDINA DV. INV.	13.4	4.56	11	14850	81037	5.42	5.48	-.06	
3,850	2,220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.2	11.26	7	1150	2553	2.22	2.22	-	
960	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	4	1250	578	.46	.46	-	
1,290	1,000	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	31.8	0.00	6	8300	6632	1.03	1.04	-.01	
1,200	510	INTERMED. PETRO. CRES.	9	0.00	4	1300	728	.56	.56	-	
940	450	JOR. ROADMEN. INDUS.	16.2	6.17	3	1550	1023	.66	.66	-	
2,980	1,520	UNIV. CHEM. INDUS.	16.2	6.37	3	500	785	1.57	1.57	-	
4,610	3,430	ALADDIN CO.	23.8	2.82	1	3000	12780	4.46	4.26	-.22	
3,000	2,100	KATL. CABLE WIRE. WPC	33.2	0.00	1	200	434	2.10	2.07	-.03	
1,510	930	JOR. SUB-PRO. CEN	9	0.00	5	2000	1220	.61	.61	-	
1,670	1,120	ARAB PHARM. CEN.	16.7	5.34	11	7300	9491	1.28	1.31	-.03	
1,970	1,080	UNIV. MED. INDUS.	10.87	11	3700	21450	27604	1.26	1.29	-.03	
Y 1,510	930	JOR. SUB-PRO. CEN	9	0.00	5	2000	1220	.61	.61	-	
1,620	1,000	KATL. CHLORINE	14.3	4.61	3	1607	2442	1.50	1.52	-.02	
1,070	810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	15.8	0.00	4	2200	1892	.85	.86	-.01	
2,090	1,340	INT. EAST READY WEAR	52.8	0.00	3	1175	1725	1.81	1.81	-	
1,330	1,080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.5	0.00	8	2766	3278	1.19	1.19	-	
1,190	860	UNION CH. & VEG.	45.0	0.00	7	8475	8379	.98	.99	-.01	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 120.22	%CHG: +0.05	178	100102	244264				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 164.54	%CHG: +0.04	339	195599	790886				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 27/08/1997											
650	400	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.7	0.00	3	6500	2600	.40	.40	-	
1,550	1,070	ZARA FOR INVESTMENT	73.5	0.00	9	800	883	1.12	1.12	-	
950	640	JOR. FIB. INV. CO.	9	0.00	19	29100	16293	.54	.57	-.03	
840	660	UNION INV. 507	9	0.00	23	55800	11718	.70	.71	-.01	
570	370	ARAB FIB. INVEST.	9	0.00	12	11250	4278	.38	.39	-.01	
950	720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	9	0.00	9	29100	16293	.54	.57	-.03	
W 950	610	AL-DAMIYAN 751	71.0	0.00	15	52250	25602	.74	.74	-	
1,050	850	UNITED FOR FIBAN. INV.	49.5	0.00	5	50000	47500	.95	.95	-	
480	200	JOR. INDS. MATCH-JEWEL	9	0.00	1	100	25	.25	.25	-	
730	500	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	3	1400	703	.50	.50	-	
570	380	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	44.9	0.00	18	47400	18486	.40	.39	-.01	
750	400	KATL. MULT. ENV. NAMIKO	9	0.00	14	17772	8175	.46	.46	-	
620	710	JORDAN STEEL	34.8	6.49	9	8050	3899	.77	.77	-	
580	430	ARAB ELECT. INDUS.	9	0.00	1	500	250	.51	.50	-.01	
730	580	MIDWEST PHARM. 751	9	0.00	5	5516	981	.84	.84	-	
1,190	860	UNION TOBACCO 751	9	0.00	7	3795	2794	1.02	1.04	-.02	
670	550	RAZI PHARM. 857	9	0.00	22	35242	16813	.62	.63	-.01	
570	320	INDUS. CEN.	9	0.00	17	10250	3280	.32	.32	-	
860	720	INDUS. CERAMIC	18.9	0.00	3	1000	720	.72	.72	-	
N 1,000	700	KATL. ALUMINUM. 751	9	0.00	4	3500	1643	.71	.72	-.01	
1,020	720	ARAB INTL. FOOD FACT.	37.1	0.00	2	256	251	.77	.77	-	
860	590	INT. EAST COMPLEX	7.4	16.67	18	13400	6050	.61	.60	-.01	
GRAND TOTAL					213	377401	200143				
1: New 12 months high 2: New 12 months low 3: Listed during the past 12 months 4: P/E ratio is 100 or more 5: Negative P/E 6: Rating is zero or N/A for the most recent year											

**THE BETTER HALF.** By Glasbergen

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**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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KEPOD  
SETTEA  
NEEWAK

Print answer here: TO

Answers tomorrow

Jumbles: BIRCH FLUTE WAYLAY FUNGUS  
Answer: What the minor got when his partner stole their gold - THE SHAFT

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## U.S. Open Agassi advances; Martinez ousts Capriati

NEW YORK (AP) — For two crisp sets, a faster and less flabby Andre Agassi finally played as he wanted to be on a tennis court as he brandished flashes of his 1994 championship run at the U.S. Open.

Then they played the third set. Agassi looked slow, sloppy, impatient, and when he thumped an overhead against the back fence on set point, even his bride, Brooke Shields, cursed in disgust at the court.

In the end, Agassi walked away Tuesday night with a 6-1, 6-1, 4-6, 6-3 victory over No. 130-ranked wild card Steve Campbell, and convinced no one that he's ready to launch another drive toward the title from

uncomfortable, but managed to settle down enough to pull out the match in the fourth set.

After losing the first match of a tournament seven times this year in compiling a miserable 9-10 record coming into the Open, Agassi was pleased with his performance.

"For all those who can't make the distinction between when I'm playing and when I'm not, I'm playing," Agassi said. "The fundamentals of everything that I need to improve on are there. Now it's become a matter of fine-tuning. ... It's nice to be there. It's been a long time."

"I've got to say, when I got out there I remembered the dance."

Hings couldn't resist flicking drop shots against her pregnant foe.

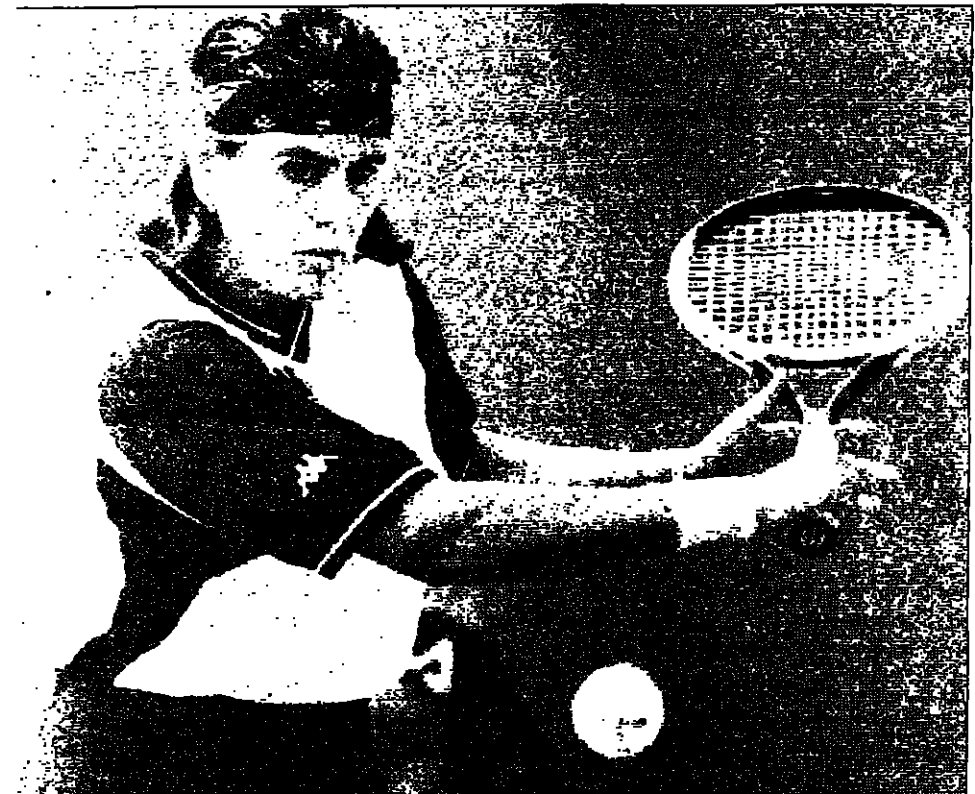
Hings didn't get to be No. 1 by extending sympathy toward other players, so it was not too surprising Tuesday at the U.S. Open to see her pull out all her tricks against a 15-week pregnant Tami Jones in a 6-0, 6-1 rout.

"When I read she was pregnant, I said, 'well, OK. I'm going to face two opponents at one time,'" Hings said with a laugh. "It was weird playing someone who is pregnant. It's different."

Jones — formerly Whitlinger-Jones — had a little more roundness to her belly, was slower than usual and out of breath more. Her doctor told her it was safe to



Tenth seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, from Spain, hits a return to opponent Kerry-Anne Guse, from Australia, during their first round U.S. Open match. Sanchez-Vicario defeated Guse 6-2 6-4 (Reuters photo)



Spain's Conchita Martinez returns a backhand to Jennifer Capriati of the United States during her first round match at the U.S. Open in New York. Martinez defeated Capriati 6-1 6-2 to advance (Reuters photo)



Carlos Moya, from Spain, pretends to shoot at the chair umpire after what he thought was a bad line call against Frenchman Guillaume Raoux. Raoux, who is unseeded, upset Moya 6-4 7-6 6-2 (Reuters photo)



Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten, the ninth seed, serves to opponent Geoff Grant of the United States during their first round U.S. Open match. Kuerten is the French Open champion (Reuters photo)

an unseeded spot.

Agassi, who has plummeted in the rankings to No. 63, was playing his first Grand Slam match since losing in the semifinals here a year ago. He showed he can still drum groundstrokes into the corners, deliver deft drop shots, and return serve with power and accuracy — but is sorely lacking in stamina and sustained intensity.

Campbell, who won only eight matches all year, was a rather accommodating opponent the first two sets, serving meatballs to Agassi and letting him do pretty much what he wanted.

Agassi yielded only six points in one six-game stretch, and led 4-0 in the second set before Campbell held serve for the first time in the match.

Agassi rushed between points, seemed tired and

Most of the top men in action advanced in straight sets, including No. 2 Michael Chang, No. 3 Yevgeny Kafelnikov, and former Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek. Two seeded players from Spain lost in straight sets to players from France as Guillaume Raoux beat No. 8 Carlos Moya, and Arnaud Boetsch beat No. 16 Albert Costa.

No. 11 Thomas Enqvist withdrew because of an undisclosed illness.

Sixth-seeded Alex Corretja of Spain, who nearly knocked off Pete Sampras in a magnificent four-hour quarterfinal match last year in the old stadium, needed four sets to down Marc Rosset.

The top women also had an easy day. Cruel or not, Martina

play as long as she drank lots of fluids to avoid dehydration. On a warm, muggy day at the Open, Jones guzzled as much water as she could hold.

"It was quite an experience," said Jones, who lost the first set in 16 minutes. "It was a bit intimidating concerning my condition, but my husband thought what a great way to go out, playing in the new Arthur Ashe stadium, playing Martina Hings. It's a good story for our child."

The 42-minute match was the last in singles for the 28-year-old Jones, who will play once more in doubles in her home state of

Wisconsin before concentrating on motherhood and settling down in Cincinnati.

With her whole family in the stands, Jones went out with the idea of simply enjoying her last match, no matter the score.

"I kind of joked with the baby and said, 'this is our debut,' and talked about how exciting it would be," Jones said. "It's definitely something to remember."

It was another day to forget for one of the former stars of the women's tour, Jennifer Capriati, who fell 6-1, 6-2 to No. 7 Conchita Martinez. As in so many other matches in her attempted comeback,

Capriati lacked control and quickness as she sprayed 45 unforced errors — nearly twice as many as Martinez.

Capriati spoke again about her need to find a new coach to refine her game and help her win the close games she loses so often these days.

In other women's matches, No. 3 Jana Novotna, No. 4 Iva Majoli, No. 5 Amanda Coetzer, No. 6 Lindsay Davenport, No. 9 Mary Pierce and No. 12 Mary Joe Fernandez all won in straight sets.

Aubrie Rippner, a 17-year-old Californian making her pro debut, beat Natalia Medvedeva 6-2, 6-2.



Second seed Michael Chang of the United States keeps his eye on the ball during a match with Patrik Fredriksson of Sweden in the first round of the U.S. Open (Reuters photo)

## Ferrari chief keeps cool

MONZA (AFP) — Ferrari boss Gianni Agnelli warned the fans on Wednesday not to expect an easy victory for Michael Schumacher in next week's Italian Grand Prix here.

Agnelli, whose family control the Fiat car empire which includes Ferrari, arrived at Monza by helicopter, accompanied by Ferrari President Luca di Montezemolo.

"Schumacher told me it's going to be a very difficult race, and that other cars will have an advantage on this circuit," said Agnelli.

"There are a few things that can be improved with the aerodynamics, but I don't know if something can be done in 10 days."

"I just saw that they've already changed the front of the car and were doing tests."

Schumacher and his partner Eddie Irvine return for the 68th Italian Grand Prix here on September 7.

After four victories this season and a lead in the drivers' and constructors' championships, Ferrari fans are now convinced their team can win both world titles. Eleven thousand of them turned up here just to watch Tuesday's first day of testing this week.

But Agnelli was wary about making any predictions, saying: "For the moment, we're in good shape."

Asked the best news he had received from Schumacher on Wednesday morning, he quipped: "That, for the moment, Schumacher is staying with us."

## Italians back Spanish players' strike

VENICE (AFP) — The Italian footballers union (AIC) gave its full support on Tuesday for a strike call in Spain to protest against the growing number of non-European players.

Spanish players want to limit the number of non-European Union nationals in the Liga, and AIC President Sergio Campana said he backed the protest.

"We've expressed our full solidarity with the Spanish players union," said Campana. "We've regularly been in contact with them, since we, too, have recently had to confront the same problem."

The AIC has so far won its battle in the Serie A to maintain a limit of a maximum of three non-EU players per team on the pitch at the same time.

"Faced with calls from the League for the number of non-EU players to be increased, our position has been to firmly close the door, and to inform the national football federation that we would be prepared to go on strike if the rules were to be changed," Campana said.

"We know full well that the League will try again later, but we're ready for any confrontation. We just hope we won't be the only ones to care about the identity and the tradition of Italian football."

## Adams out of Sept. 10 England qualifier

LONDON (AFP) — England defender Tony Adams has no chance of being fit for England's crucial World Cup qualifier against Moldova at Wembley on September 10, according to Arsenal Manager Arsene Wenger.

The news will come as a blow to England coach Glenn Hoddle, who has already been deprived of the services of star striker Alan Shearer, who has a badly damaged ankle, until the new year.

Centre back Adams, a dominant figure for England in recent years, started the season with a two-match ban after being sent off in the last match last term against Derby County, and has not played since then.

He was troubled for most of the campaign by an ankle problem and although this

has now healed, he is currently sidelined by a cracked rib sustained in a pre-season reserve friendly.

Wenger again left him out of the line-up to face Leicester City at Filbert Street on Wednesday night and said: "It will be two weeks before Tony can play any sort of match. Playing for England, for me, would be impossible."

"He has had another reserve game since the rib injury but he tried to play again too early and it is still a problem."

"He is very frustrated and, mentally, it is very difficult for him but we must all be very patient because the ankle took a long time to get right and now that is OK."

## AOC to decide 1998 Bangkok Games fate

BANGKOK (AFP) — The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) has called an emergency meeting to discuss stripping Thailand of its right to hold the Asian Games in December next year, officials said Wednesday.

The planned meeting of the council's executive board in Kuwait on September 23 came to light in a letter sent by the OCA to the Olympic Committee of Thailand (OCT), the officials said.

Bangkok's Asian Games Organising Committee (BAGOC) has been plagued by a series of resignations, disputes over sponsorship contracts and accusations of political meddling and racism in the run-up to the Games.

"Concern is heightened by the lack of tangible progress in the preparation of the Games and also by the highly antagonistic attitude of BAGOC towards the OCA," OCA chief Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah said in the letter.

"I urge you to do all in your power to regain your rightful authority and control over the organising committee," the sheikh urged OCT chairman and army commander General Chettha Thanajaro.

Since a spate of resignations this month there have been no OCT members serving on BAGOC — a situation the Asian Olympic council says "breaches the constitution governing the running of the Games."

The 7,500-athlete Asian Games is the biggest sporting event in the region and second only in size to the Summer Olympics.

In a separate letter, OCA secretary-

general Randir Singh has written to BAGOC head, the powerful Thai Deputy Prime Minister Sukhachin Rangsitpol, asking him to clarify allegedly racist statements attributed to him in the Thai press last week, officials said.

Relations between the OCA and BAGOC soured dramatically earlier this month when Sukhachin refused to accept a compromise plan over the resignation of a Thai OCA official who had helped to generate a record \$82 million in sponsorship and licensing fees.

It is understood the executive board does not have the power to strip Thailand of the right to host the games, but a negative vote would probably be endorsed by the general assembly of the 43-member OCA which must vote on the issue.

At one of the two venues in the north of Bangkok, two empty fields now stand where a stadium is due to be built. Work on a flyover leading to the site and nearby accommodation blocks for the athletes has been started but is far from complete.

But a BAGOC official told AFP on Friday the work would be finished on schedule, saying critical work on an underground piping system was complete and the rest could be finished in a matter of months.

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Jim Carrey ... in  
**LIAR LIAR**  
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:699238  
**PLAZA**  
Tom Bringer ... in  
**THE SUBSTITUTE**  
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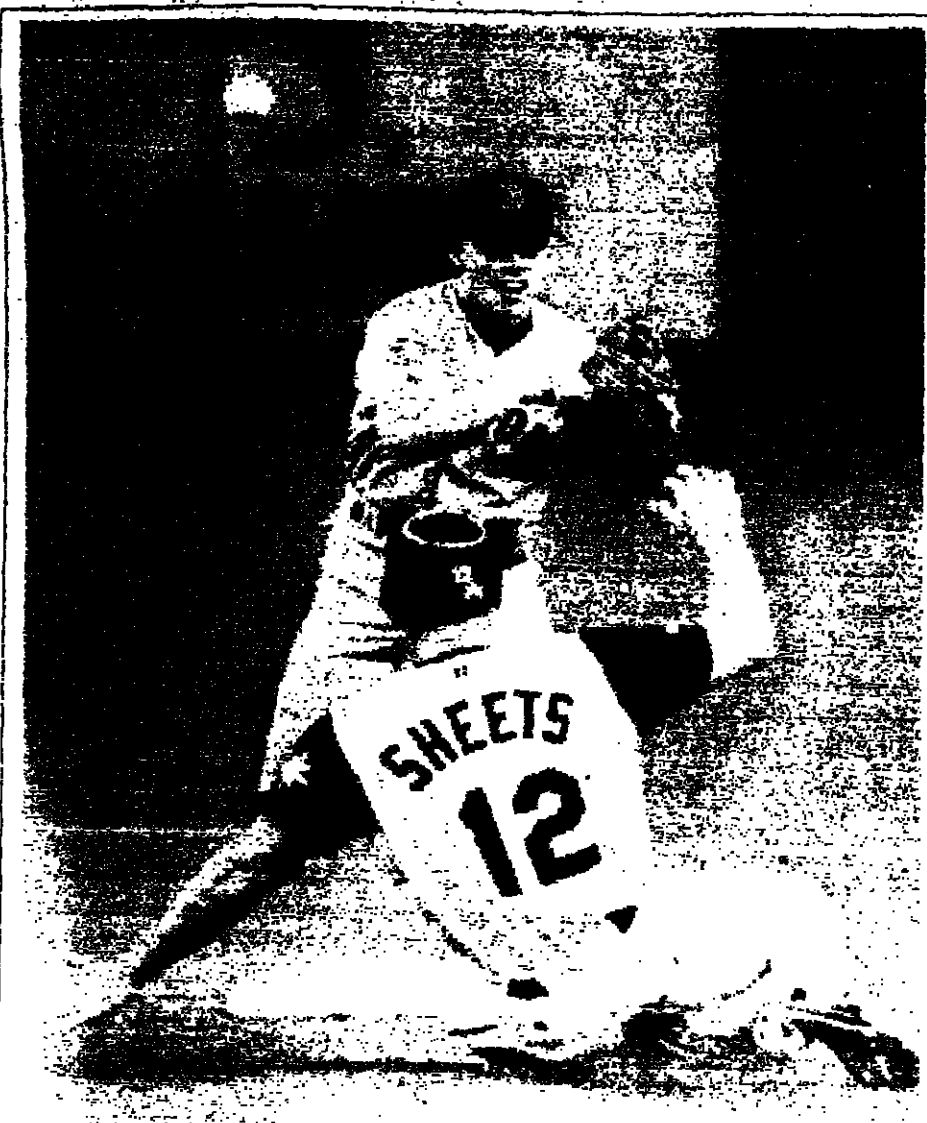
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As Seattle Mariners' Andy Sheets slides into second base, Boston Red Sox shortstop John Valentin throws to first, completing a double play in the bottom of the third inning at the Kingdome in Seattle. Seattle won the game 8-2 (Reuters photo)

## Shearer could be back in action in November

LONDON (R) — Alan Shearer could be back in action in November, Newcastle Chairman Sir John Hall said on Wednesday.

The England striker had not been expected to return until the new year after suffering a bad pre-season injury.

But Sir John told BBC radio: "He's making progress. I think it was stated probably November-ish or something like that, the doctors seem to be indicating."

Shearer was the world's most expensive soccer player at 15 million pounds (\$24.1 million) when he joined Newcastle from Blackburn in 1996.

But he has suffered various injuries in his career and in a pre-season tournament game against Chelsea he badly damaged some ankle ligaments and had to undergo an operation.

Sir John said: "He's going to see a specialist. Shearer will still miss England's last two World Cup qualifiers, against Moldova next month and Italy in October."

## Wihdat meet Faisali Thursday in delayed Shield final

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JSF Shield record (runner-up in parenthesis)

AMMAN — The Kingdom's soccer champions Al Wihdat meet Al Faisali Thursday evening in the delayed Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF) Shield final.

Both teams have met ten times in past Shield matches with Al Faisali winning six times.

They met twice in the 1987 and 1993 finals with Al Faisali on both occasions.

Thursday's final match was due to have been held May 26 but was indefinitely postponed because of Al Faisali's request to enlist foreign referees for the highly-awaited match grouping the countries top two teams.

While the JSF regulations bar foreign referees from officiating local matches, Al Wihdat did not at first object to Faisali's demand but the JSF did not reach a decision, which led to the indefinite postponement of the match.

Citing JSF rules which state that any club refusing to play a final match be considered a loser with a 3-0 result, Al Wihdat then issued a statement stating that they would not play the match and consider themselves the winners.

Following that, Al Faisali asked for a JSF general assembly meeting which also led to a change in the ticket sales formula. However, Al Wihdat rejected the new formula and decided to boycott the Premier League and Jordan Cup contests.

After meeting with JSF President HRH Prince Abdullah, the club only decided to return to competition after the JSF brought back the old formula regarding revenues, which

1981	Jazireh (Wihdat)
1982	Wihdat (Amman)
1983	Wihdat (Ramtha)
1984	Amman (Husseini)
1985	Amman (Faisali)
1986	Jazireh (Faisali)
1987	Faisali (Wihdat)
1988	Wihdat (Husseini)
1989	Ramtha (Wihdat)
1990	Ramtha (Husseini)
1991	Faisali (Wihdat)
1992	Faisali (Husseini)
1993	Ramtha (Qadissieh)
1994	Husseini (Faisali)
1995	Wihdat
1996	Ramtha (Husseini)

allocate 35 per cent to the two clubs contesting the match, 35 per cent to be split between the remaining eight clubs in Premier League, 25 per cent to the JSF and 5 per cent to the first and second division clubs.

The formula rejected by Al Wihdat had less revenue for the clubs contesting the match, and more to the JSF.

Al Wihdat and Al Faisali will play again next Friday in a delayed Premier League match when the fourth week of the competition resumes Sept. 1 following a two-week break because of Al Wihdat's participation in the Arab Cup Winners' Cup in Egypt.

MIDDLE-DISTANCE runners Hicham El Guerrouj (L) of Morocco and Gabriella Szabo (C) of Romania laugh as runner Frankie Fredericks (R) of Namibia jokes with a gold ingot at the Berlin IATF athletics meeting, August 26. El Guerrouj, Szabo and Fredericks won the biggest jackpot in athletics a share of 20 one kilo bars of gold. The gold bars are divided between those who win specific events at the four most lucrative meetings in the sport (Reuters photo)



## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Prost hoping to sign Hill

PARIS (AFP) — Formula One team boss Alain Prost is hoping to sign Damon Hill if the two can agree on money it was reported here on Thursday. "I want the best driver possible on condition that he is not too expensive. I have my budget and I am sticking to it," Prost told L'Equipe newspaper. Both Hill and Prost are believed to be holding talks this week to see if an agreement can be reached. Peugeot, who supply Prost's engines, are keen to have a high profile name alongside Frenchman Olivier Panis who signed a new two-year contract with the team last week. Prost has worked with Hill at Williams and has made no secret of his respect for the 37-year-old defending world champion.

### Dutch club signs Australian

THE HAGUE (AFP) — Dutch first division club Heerenveen Tuesday signed Australian Raphael Bove from Sydney's UTS Olympic club. Bove, a 20-year-old defender or midfielder who has made 10 appearances for Australia's Olympic Games squad, signed a two-year contract with Heerenveen.

### Bogus Botafogo swindle Spaniards

MADRID, Aug 26 (AFP) — A phantom team passing itself off as famous Brazilian outfit Botafogo endured a disastrous tour of Spain, losing a string of friendlies as the real side went about its business in the Brazilian championship. The penny dropped when "Botafogo", thrashed 6-0 by a Salamanca side short of match practice prior to the start of the Spanish season, laboured to a 2-2 draw against third division Lorca after losing 2-0 to second division Logrones. The visitors' cover was blown when Botafogo President Fernando Mendes told the Brazilian media that his team had not left the country, never mind been anywhere near Spain — which is thousands of kilometres away. Logrones President Jose Manuel Fernandez played down the incident. "It's not so serious. We wanted to play a friendly and we're satisfied," he said. "We don't mind who we play." No-one has yet discovered the identity of the bogus Brazilians, whose current whereabouts is unknown.

## Celtic clinch UEFA place

GLASGOW (R) — Glasgow Celtic produced a stunning second-half display to beat Austrian side Tirol Innsbruck 6-3 on Tuesday and claim a place in the UEFA Cup first round with a 7-5 aggregate win.

Trailing 2-1 from the first leg of their preliminary round tie, the Scots blew the lead twice in the first half with goals from Simon Donnelly and Andreas Thom cancelled out by efforts from Christian Mayrleib and Francis Sebercyms.

But in the next 45 minutes the Scottish side found the net another four times, including two in the dying minutes, to produce a dramatic conclusion to the evening.

Donnelly swept home a penalty after 68 minutes to restore Celtic's lead and two minutes later Craig Burley gave them the crucial two-goal advantage.

The 47,000 crowd at Parkhead were beginning to celebrate when Innsbruck pulled a goal back through gunnott krinner eight minutes from time. With the aggregate score all square at 5-5, Innsbruck were ahead on away goals.

Morten Wieghorst got Celtic's fifth of the night and Burley put the tie beyond doubt with his second in the last minute of the game.

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♣ 7

**EAST**  
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♥ 2  
♦ 8  
♣ Q108632

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# Israel demolishes home of blind man with ten children and wife

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli bulldozers demolished three Arab houses in Jerusalem Wednesday, including the home of a blind and handicapped Palestinian man, his wife and 10 children, witnesses said.

Ali Abu Swayy, 40, scuffled with police and municipal workers in a vain attempt to stop the destruction of his tin-roofed stone house in the Wadi Kaddum section of Arab east Jerusalem, the witnesses said.

Mr. Abu Swayy, who said he lived in the house with his wife and 10 children, was briefly detained by police to allow a bulldozer to raze the building.

Surrounded by police and paramilitary border guards, bulldozers also destroyed two other houses which were under construction in the same neighbourhood and residents said nine other families in the area had received demolition warnings.

Israeli police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said the houses torn down Wednesday had been built without municipal construction permits.

But Palestinians protest that Israel, in a bid to prevent the growth of the Arab population in Arab east Jerusalem, which both Palestinians and Israelis claim as their capital, systematically refuses requests for building permits.

"You should know that

your prime minister is leading you to war with these actions, you will pay a high price," shouted Fathi Jabari to the police as they tore down the walls of two houses being built by his brothers Tayseer and Yasser.

His sister, Widad Jabari, complained that the family had received no warning of the demolition.

"Suddenly the soldiers arrived and the bulldozers began destroying the houses," she said.

"I asked a city official who was here where the warning was and he showed me a letter dated a few days ago, but I refused to take it," she said.

The Israeli government has stepped up its policy of demolishing unauthorised Arab housing in east Jerusalem and the West Bank since a double suicide bombing last month in Jerusalem which killed 16 people, including the attackers.

Prior to the bombing there had been a lull of several months in house demolitions, apparently in an effort not to further sour already tense relations between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

But since the bombing, 37 houses have been razed in Jerusalem alone, along with nearly 20 in the occupied West Bank, prompting charges that the demolitions

(Continued on page 7)

## Israeli army shuts down mosque, charity office

BANI NAIM (AFP) — The Israeli army closed on Wednesday a mosque and an Islamic charity office in this West Bank village near Hebron, charging the facilities were run by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), officials said.

An army unit arrived at dawn in Bani Naim and sealed the mosque and four rooms which served as offices for the Islamic Charity Association, an army spokesman said.

A school for orphans run by the Islamic charity in the same building was not closed, residents said. Bani Naim is in a zone where the Israeli army controls security but civilian affairs are run by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The army said it found Hamas propaganda in the charity offices, including leaflets praising suicide attacks against Israel. The offices were ordered closed for an initial period of two months, the army spokesman said.

But the president of the charity, Noah Manassarah, denied any connection to Hamas and said any inciteful documents must have been planted by the Israeli soldiers.

The army said Wednesday's operation was part of broader crackdown on Hamas's infrastructure.

Investigators have yet to identify the bombers or offer concrete evidence linking the attack to Palestinian groups, but Israel has blamed Hamas.

Hamas, the biggest Palestinian movement opposed to peace accords with Israel, has claimed responsibility for most major bomb attacks against the Jewish state over the past four years.

The group maintains a widespread network of schools, clinics and social welfare offices across the Palestinian areas which Israel charges are used to build an alternative power structure to PNA and to recruit militants for attacks against Israel.

Despite the lack of concrete evidence linking the Jerusalem bombing to Palestinian groups, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has maintained painful security restrictions and economic sanctions against the Palestinians since the attack.

He refuses to lift the punitive measures until the PNA arrests prominent Hamas and other organisation's leaders and dismantles the groups' military networks. President Yasser Arafat has so far refused to launch such a crackdown.

Hamas rejected on Tuesday an appeal from the PNA to halt armed attacks against Israel. "We repeat our commitment to the option of resistance."



BATHING IN SPANISH TOMATOES: Festival revellers throw tomatoes at each other during the annual "Tomatina," the biggest tomato fight in the world, Wednesday in the eastern Spanish village of Bunyol. Some 100 tonnes of tomatoes are used in the fight until they are reduced to pulp (Reuters photo)

## Embassy in Kuwait urges Americans to be careful

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) —

The U.S. embassy has issued a warning to its citizens in Kuwait urging them to be alert after an anonymous threat was made against an American target, an official said Wednesday.

"The American embassy has received a report of an anonymous phone call claiming knowledge of a possible attack against an American location in Kuwait on August 28," according to the message sent to AFP by an embassy official.

"No specific location was mentioned and the embassy is not able to say how reliable this report is," it said.

"Nonetheless, the embassy urges all American citizens in Kuwait in the upcoming days to exercise particular caution and maintain a heightened awareness of their surroundings," it continued.

The statement added that the embassy is "monitoring this situation very closely" and further notices will be issued "as warranted by changes in this situation."

There are about 8,000 American citizens living and working in Kuwait, excluding a rotating battalion of some 1,500 combat troops that exercise here and air force personnel that patrol the no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

Unspecified threats have been made against U.S. interests here in the past, including one last October when the embassy issued a similar warning, but no attack followed.

A British embassy official said a warning had been issued to its citizens, which number about 4,000, in light of the new threat to American interests.

"We have been advised that there has been a security threat against American interests in Kuwait over the next few days," the warning said.

It said British nationals "should be extra vigilant,

KUWAITI police investigate prostitution ring

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwaiti security is investigating a prostitution ring, mainly involving Russian women, which solicited clients outside hotels and in shopping malls, a newspaper said Wednesday. "The security forces are carrying out an investigation concerning numerous young European women who arrived in Kuwait some time ago to practice organised prostitution," the daily Al-Wakeel reported. "Most of the young women, who have practised this vice here for some time, are Russians," the newspaper said, quoting informed sources. "The young women hunt for clients outside hotels and especially in markets and shopping malls, claiming to be European tourists without revealing their real nationalities," the paper said. Interior ministry officials were not available for comment. Other Gulf states, such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), experienced an influx of prostitutes from Russia and the former Soviet Republics, who headed for the region after the collapse of Communism in search of wealthy clients.

especially if their activities bring them into close contact with American interests."

Elsewhere in the Gulf, the U.S. embassy in Saudi Arabia reissued a routine warning to the 40,000 American citizens living there to be alert for new terrorist attacks.

The U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia was targeted in the November 1995 attack on a military training building that killed seven, including five Americans, and the June 1996 bombing of an air force housing complex that killed 19 U.S. airmen.



Undated files show (from left to right) Libyan Hanna Ben Amer, Italian Nerina Bernabei and Libyan Khaled Eter, accomplices of Libyan Musbah Eter Abulgasem, who was arrested along with his three accomplices Tuesday in Rome (AFP photo)

## Italian police arrest Libyan in '86 Berlin disco bombing

ROME (AP) — A Libyan man indicted for the 1986 bombing of a Berlin disco that killed three people, including two U.S. soldiers, has been arrested in Rome, Italian police said Wednesday.

The blast also injured 230 people, many of them American soldiers. It provoked a retaliatory attack by American warplanes on two Libyan cities that killed at least 15 people.

German and U.S. officials say Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi ordered his spies in what was then east Berlin to bomb the disco in west Berlin.

Italian police said Musbah Abulgasem Eter, 40, was arrested Tuesday night on a Rome street on a multiple murder warrant issued by the German federal police. He did not resist arrest.

He will be extradited to Germany, said Nicola De Cristofaro, vice director of DIGOS, the anti-terrorism squad of Italian police.

Eter was indicted in Berlin in February and fled Germany in July, a spokeswoman for the Berlin courts and prosecutors, Michaela Blume, said. The arrest warrant was issued after he fled.

De Cristofaro said it appears Eter had been in Italy for several weeks. He said Germany alerted Italy on August 20.

Three other people — two Libyans and an Italian — were arrested and charged with helping him evade capture.

De Cristofaro said Italian police were investigating what sort of support network Eter had in Rome. Two of the local suspects, both women, were arrested on the street and the third at a Rome apartment.

In February, German prosecutors indicted five people, including Eter, for the attack on the April 5, 1986, La Belle disco. Eter then confessed and agreed to help investigators.

After he fled Germany in July, German police tracked him down through intercepted

telephone conversations from Germany to an apartment and public phones in the neighbourhood where he was arrested, De Cristofaro said.

He identified the other three people arrested Tuesday as Hanna Ben Amer and her husband Khaled Eter, both 34 and both Libyan citizens, and Nerina Bernabei, a 34-year-old Italian woman with a record of prostitution arrests.

Ben Amer was carrying a fake ID for Eter when she was arrested, police said. All three have been charged with aiding and abetting a fugitive. De Cristofaro incorrectly identified Eter as the sixth and final suspect in the disco bombing.

Still at large is the alleged mastermind, Said Rashid, also suspected in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland. "If we get Rashid, and he confesses that the order came from the top, I won't shy away from investigating Qadhafi," Berlin prosecutor Detlev Mehls told Stern magazine in May.

## Fleas force police to flee station

ROTTERDAM (AFP) —

A police station in Rotterdam was forced to shut down for the night after it became infested with fleas spread by two officers returning from an assignment, police said Wednesday. Police said the two officers on Tuesday evening went to arrest a suspected robber in a poor neighbourhood and were met by an army of the small wingless insects that forced them to beat a quick retreat. Back at the station, the two officers — and the tiny creatures that had jumped on their uniforms — went about their business until the entire police force was itching so badly that everyone was ordered to flee the station.

## Hendrix guitar, Lennon self portrait for auction

LONDON (R) — A guitar

belonging to Jimi Hendrix, costumes worn by the Spice Girls and a self-portrait of John Lennon are up for auction in a rock 'n' roll memorabilia sale in London next month. Hendrix's Black Fender Stratocaster guitar is expected to fetch more than 180,000 pounds at the auction at London's Hard Rock Cafe. A sketch made by Lennon during his 1969 "Bed-In" with Yoko Ono in Montreal is expected to fetch about 25,000 pounds and the costumes worn by British Five Girl band the Spice Girls to launch a television channel last year carry an estimate of 1,500 pounds each.

## Hollywood actress Geena Davis files for divorce

LOS ANGELES (R) —

Oscar-winning actress Geena Davis filed for divorce Tuesday from her husband of nearly four years, Finnish-born film director Renny Harlin, her publicist said. Davis, 40, also announced her departure from the Forge, a production company she co-owned with Harlin, spokesman Paul Bloch said. Bloch said Davis, who won a best supporting actress academy award for "The Accidental Tourist," has formed a new production company, Genial Pictures.

## Basinger rallies for elephant's welfare

ALBUQUERQUE (R) —

Actress Kim Basinger urged the U.S. government to clamp down on the mistreatment of elephants and other animals in circuses across the country. Speaking in Albuquerque, where an elephant was found dead inside the trailer of a travelling circus earlier this month, Basinger urged Agriculture Secretary Daniel Glickman to strictly enforce existing animal welfare laws and punish any circus that violates them.

## Younger's 'six gun' goes for over 200 grand

SAN FRANCISCO (R) —

A collector has paid \$211,500 for a Smith Wesson revolver taken from the famous outlaw Cole Younger after he robbed a Minnesota bank in 1876, the auctioneers said. The Younger gun, on the market for the first time, was one of the highlights of a sale of historic arms and armour held at Butterfield in San Francisco. A local collector bought the gun, which had a pre-sale estimate of \$50,000 to \$60,000, the auctioneers said.

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